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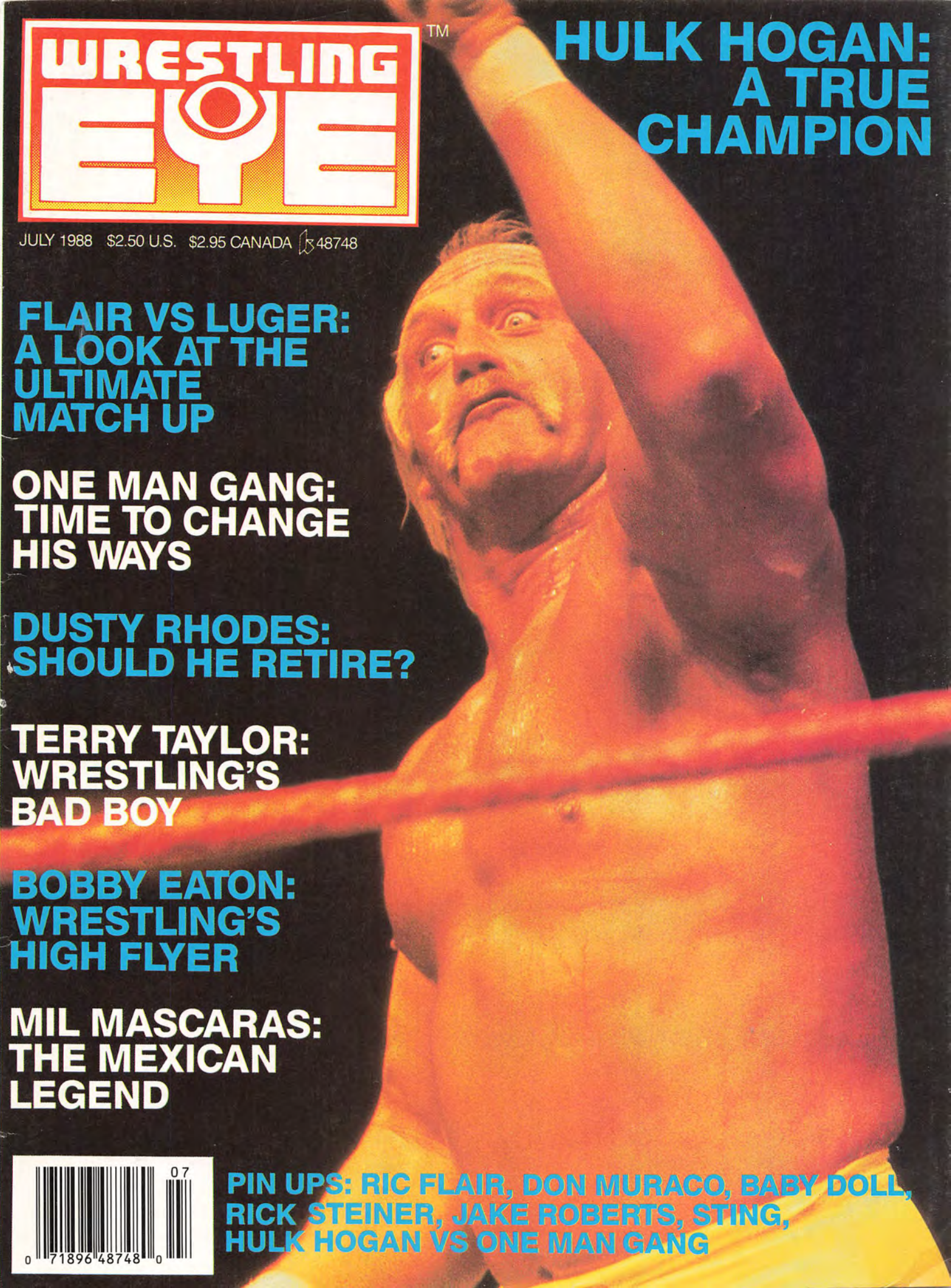

HULK HOGAN: A TRUE CHAMPION

FLAIR VS LUGER: A LOOK AT THE ULTIMATE MATCH UP

ONE MAN GANG: TIME TO CHANGE HIS WAYS

DUSTY RHODES: SHOULD HE RETIRE?

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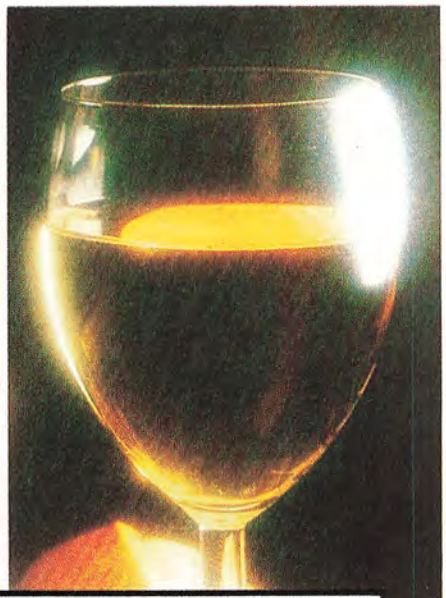

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CONTENTS

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FEATURES

HULK HOGAN: A TRUE CHAMPION 6
FLAIR VS LUGER: A LOOK AT THE ULTIMATE MATCH UP ..12
TONY ATLAS: UNFULFILLED POTENTIAL 16
ONE MAN GANG: TIME TO CHANGE HIS WAYS 20
TULLY BLANCHARD: THE HORSEMEN'S BAD APPLE? 24
BOBBY EATON: WRESTLING'S HIGH FLYER 28
DUSTY RHODES: SHOULD HE RETIRE?.....32
TERRY TAYLOR: WRESTLING'S BAD BOY 44
SGT SLAUGHTER: WRESTLING THE AMERICAN WAY! 48
AN INTERVIEW WITH TONY "HITMAN" STETSON 51
MIL MASCARAS: THE MEXICAN LEGEND.....60
INDEPENDENT STARS GALLERY 70
WOMEN'S WRESTLING AT IT'S BEST:
MISTY BLUE VS LINDA DALLAS 73

PIN-UPS

RIC FLAIR 2
DON MURACO..... 3
BABY DOLL.....4
JIM CORNETTE.....37
SGT SLAUGHTER.....38
SLICK.....39
TED DIBIASE AND VIRGIL.....40-41
HARLEY RACE 42
RICK STEINER.....43
JAKE ROBERTS.....77
BRUISER BRODY 78
TEIJO KHAN 79
STING.....80
HULK HOGAN VS ONE MAN GANG.....81

DEPARTMENTS

EDITORIAL: HULK HOGAN AND WRESTLING 5
FAN CLUB COLUMN 54
OFFICIAL RATINGS.....58
PHANTOM OF THE RING 64
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR 68
PHOTO OF THE MONTH:
EDDIE GILBERT AND MISSY HYATT 76

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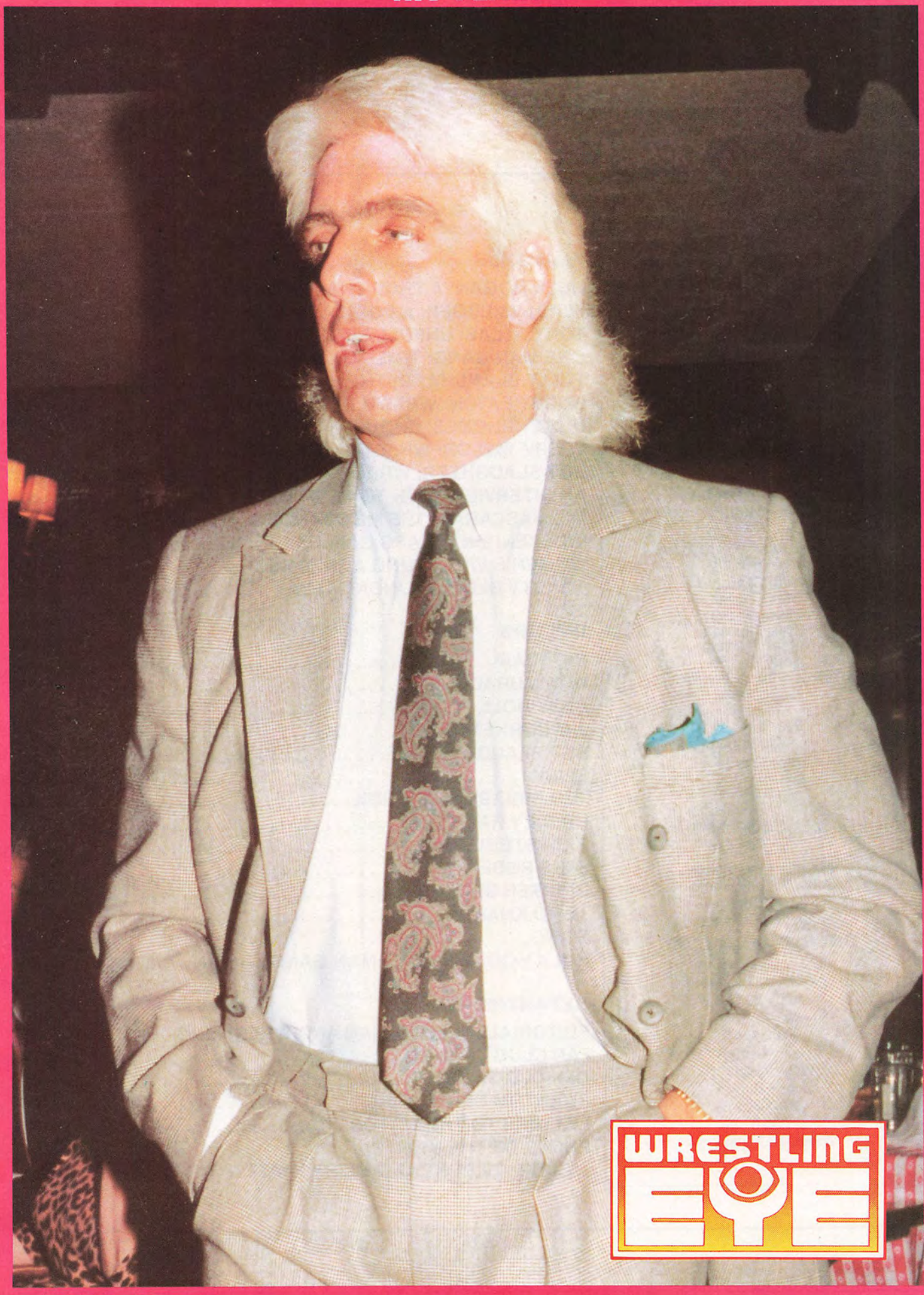
RIC FLAIR



DON MURACO

PHOTO BY STEVE BEYER

WRESTLING
EYE

From the Editor's Desk....

Hulk Hogan and Wrestling

Wrestling's been around a long time, but one thing's for sure. Hulk Hogan can be regarded as the founder of modern wrestling as we know it today. No one can deny that we owe a large majority of wrestling's success and popularity to Hogan. Since he burst on to the scene in the mid 1980's the sport hasn't been the same. Imagine if you will, what wrestling would have been like if there was no Hulkster. Sure, strictly from a 'wrestling' viewpoint, someone like Ric Flair would win hands down and have all the fan support. But when it comes to charisma, Hogan can't be beat. However, whether you like him or hate him, Hulk Hogan has done a lot for this sport and has helped it rise to the heights it so well deserves!

Carmine

See Ya' At The Matches,
Carmine DeSpirito
Editor

Hogan makes DiBiase tremble.

The Hulkster is trapped between Andre & DiBiase.

HULK HOGAN

A TRUE CHAMPION

By Tom Clutters

As of February 5, 1988, Hulk Hogan was an ex-champion.

Think about that for a minute. How long has it been since you've heard the Hulkster referred to as anything but "The World Wrestling Federation heavyweight champion"? To be precise, Hogan's tenure as WWF champion lasted four years and two weeks. Yes, for 48½ months, Hulk Hogan was at the pinnacle of his profession. His name and face were well known, even to non-wrestling fans. His looks and mannerisms, combined with WWF head honcho Vince McMahon's aggressive publicity and marketing campaigns, are credited with helping bring professional wrestling a measure of acceptance it had never enjoyed before.

Since he defeated the Iron Sheik in Madison Square Garden on January 23, 1984, Hogan has become more than just a wrestling champion. He has spent countless hours helping the less fortunate. He constantly preaches about living life to its fullest, but in the correct way. His face has appeared on numerous television programs and in advertising materials, mostly aimed at younger consumers. "Hulkamania" has been running wild for all this time, and has made Hogan a true living legend, whether you like him or not.

On that fateful February night, in front of the largest television audience ever to witness a live wrestling program, Hogan lost (or was robbed of) the belt which meant so much to him and his fans.

The site was Indianapolis, IN. The opponent was none other than Andre the Giant, a man who had been probably the Hulkster's closest friend for many years, but more recently, had turned into a bitter enemy because of his desire for a shot at the WWF title. Manager Bobby "The Brain" Heenan had been originally responsible for turning Andre into one of the ring's most hated figures. He promised the Giant a shot at becoming a world champion for the first time in his career, and offered a tremendous amount of money to Andre if he would put his fate in Heenan's hands. Andre, thinking that maybe time was running out on him, agreed. By now, you all know the result of the first meeting in Wrestle Mania III. Both Andre and Heenan (along with many ringside observers and media people) claim that the Giant actually pinned Hogan. However, referee Joey Morella indicated that he had tolled only a two count, and Hogan recovered to win the match.

During the latter part of 1987, another person who would play a key role in this scenario appeared in the WWF. Veteran Ted DiBiase, now calling himself "The Million Dollar Man", crashed onto the scene, throwing money at everyone, and making the claim that, one way or another, he would be the next WWF heavyweight champion. Eventually, DiBiase managed to purchase Andre's contract from Heenan for an amount the Brain called, "very satisfactory". Now working for DiBiase, Andre began training for a rematch with the Hulkster. After long negotiations, the battle was signed.

During this time, DiBiase and Andre apparently entered into an agreement by which, if Andre won the title, he would surrender it to DiBiase in exchange for substantial monetary concerns. Earlier, the Million Dollar Man had made a similar offer to Hogan, but was turned down. Now, it appeared as if Andre, aware that his wrestling skills were deserting him, decided to "take the money and run". Reports had been circulating for months that the Giant's physical condition was rapidly going downhill, and anyone who had seen him in the ring in recent months could certainly confirm that fact.

Andre was accompanied to the ring by DiBiase and his ever-present bodyguard, Virgil. While they plotted their last-minute strategy, Hogan made his way down the aisle, much to the delight of the Indianapolis crowd. One facet of the prematch hoopla which was missed by all but a few was the unusual amount of confidence shown by both DiBiase and Andre. Facing both a fine-tuned and highly-motivated Hulk Hogan and the fact that Andre was far from 100 percent physically still didn't seem to faze the evil trio. As it turned out, they had good reason to feel confident.

During the early part of the match, Hogan spent most of his time trying to knock the 500-pound Giant off his feet, but with no success. An ascent to the second rope by Hogan proved to be a big mistake. Andre grabbed him and slammed him to the mat, knocking the wind out of the Hulk's sails for the moment. Andre then took command for a time, but was rapidly running out of gas from Hogan's earlier assault. The Giant's punches were less than effective, and Hogan recovered quickly. A second lunge from the ropes by the Hulkster proved adequate, as Andre went crashing to the mat. Hogan then went to the ropes, dropped a leg across the Giant, and covered him for the pin. However, Virgil had been busy distract-

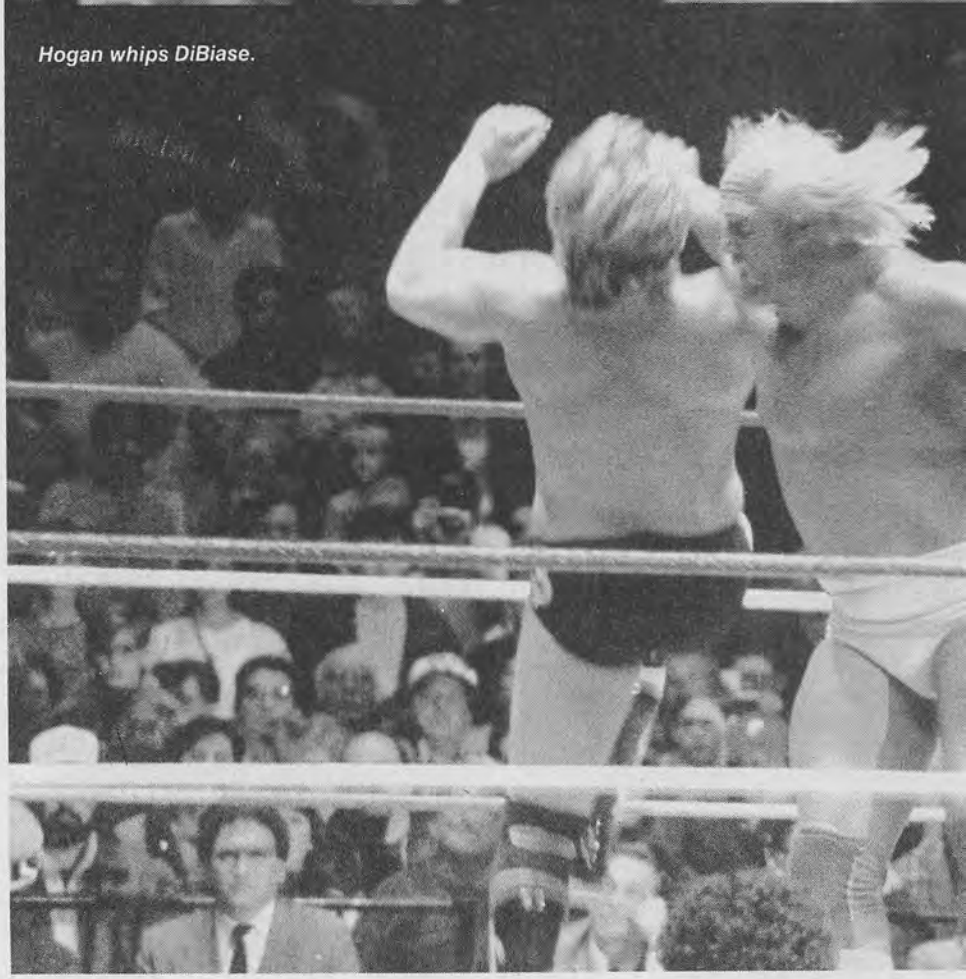
ing referee Dave Hebner at ringside, and Hogan's pin went unnoticed.

An enraged Hulkster tried to get Hebner's attention, but during the lull, Andre recovered his senses. Grabbing Hogan from behind, he administered a devastating head butt, then, using a move somewhere between a hip toss and a suplex, slammed Hogan to the canvas. As the Giant covered the champ, Hebner began his count. Hogan clearly managed to get one shoulder up after only a one count, but Hebner continued to slap the mat, and declared the match over. The official then grabbed the title belt, walked completely around the ring, and presented it to Andre, pronouncing him the new champion. Andre in turn then presented the strap to a jubilant DiBiase, while a stunned and disbelieving Hogan watched. The ex-champ confronted Hebner, but to no avail. Meanwhile, Andre, DiBiase and Virgil went toward the dressing room to celebrate.

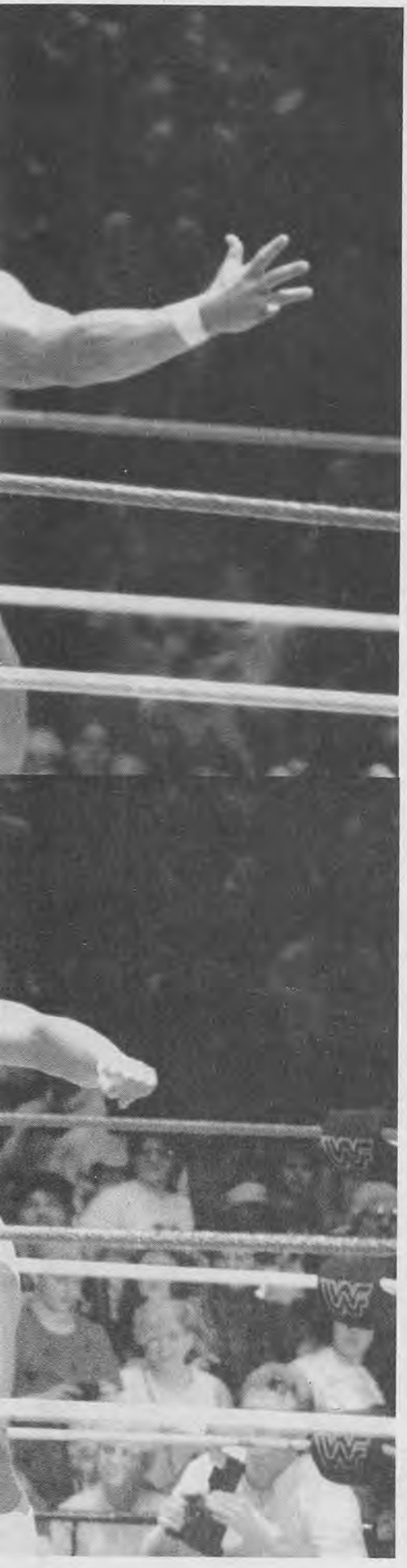
As Hogan continued to plead his case to anyone who would listen, a startling development took place. Into the ring came another referee, one who just happened to look very much like Dave Hebner. The two nearly-identical officials argued for several minutes while Hogan and a stunned audience watched. Hogan even grabbed both officials, trying to settle in his own mind just who was the real Dave Hebner. Hogan gave up in frustration after a few seconds, and the two officials began shoving each other. Finally, the man who had worked the actual match succeeded in knocking his look-alike from the ring. This was a revelation to Hogan, who grabbed the bogus Dave Hebner by the shirt. Meanwhile, the new "champion" and his partners in crime were making their way back to ringside to see what was going on. As they arrived, they were greeted by the airborne body of the fake referee, who was deposited in their laps, courtesy of Hogan.

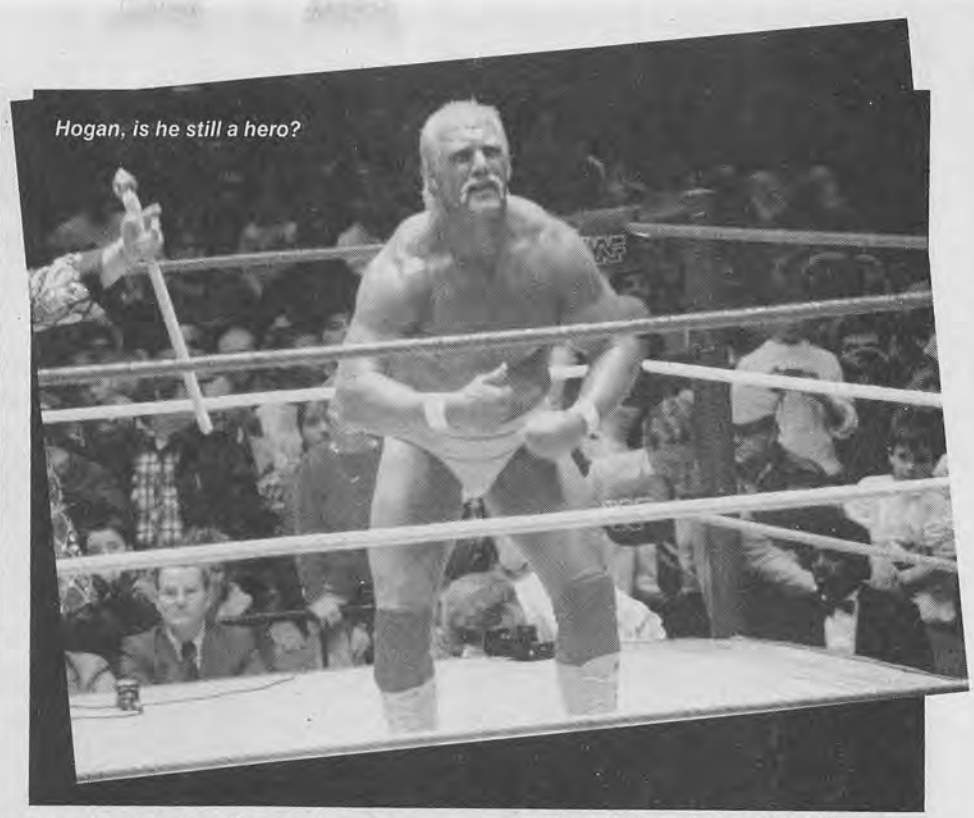
In the week following the controversial match, WWF President Jack Tunney investigated all aspects of the situation. First of all, it didn't take a wrestling genius to figure out who the counterfeit Dave Hebner was. It was, of course, Dave's brother, Earl, who, by the

DiBiase cuts Hogan down to size.



Hogan whips DiBiase.





Hogan, is he still a hero?

way, happens to be employed by the NWA (One must wonder just how much money changed hands and between who to get Earl Hebner for this "one-night stand"). But Tunney, for obvious reasons, chose to ignore that part of the situation. He did, however, decide to strip DiBiase of the title, and put it up for grabs during a tournament as part of WrestleMania IV, and promised further investigations.

Now, after more than four years, the World Wrestling Federation is faced with having a new champion. During a tournament as large as the one staged by the WWF, almost anything can happen. Hogan, who was entered, could quite easily have gotten lost in the shuffle. The WWF then faced, and will eventually have to face again, life with a new champion.

Is there anyone in the WWF who could do justice to Hogan's title? Well, in addition to DiBiase, who is a fine wrestler and has the experience to know how to act like a champion, you have men like Randy Savage, Rick Rude, and even someone like maybe Brutus Beefcake might be able to fill the bill, but it could very well be someone who maybe hasn't even emerged on the scene as of yet.

Hulk Hogan IS the World Wrestling Federation. Others have came and went, but Hulkamania has been a constant for a long time. He met and turned away nearly all contenders, and became a champion that the majority of WWF fans and officials felt comfortable with. He transformed from a cult hero to a genuine full-fledged celebrity, one who was accorded the same status as movie and rock stars of the 80s. He is as much a symbol of this decade as anything else on the planet. Love him or hate him, he's impossible to ignore.

Unfortunately for Hogan, the years of battling men like Savage, Paul Orndorff and King Kong Bundy have taken their toll. The constant travel and demands on his time have worn him down. One of the unpleasant side effects of the Hulkster's status in today's world is a lack of privacy, and close friends have noticed his increasing tension in public. Obviously, the pressure is finally catching up with Hulk Hogan.

On many occasions, Hogan has expressed a desire to move on to another career, probably on the silver screen. It might well be that the incident with Andre and DiBiase just might accelerate his decision. In any event, someone will eventually have to fill his shoes when he finally does call it quits. Whomever that might turn out to be will have his work cut out for him. There will never be another Hulk Hogan, and anyone who holds the title after him will always have to share it with a legend. To coin an old saying, the new champ will "only take his space. He'll never take his place".

Videos & Photos
Real Matches in Pro Ring

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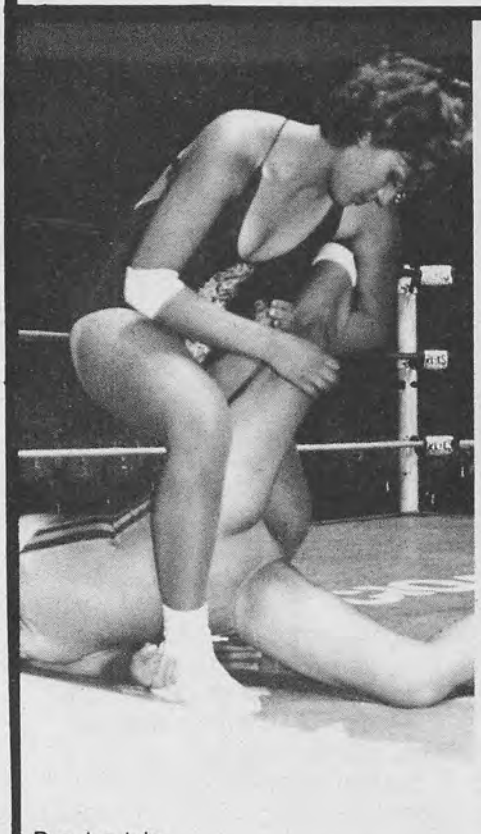
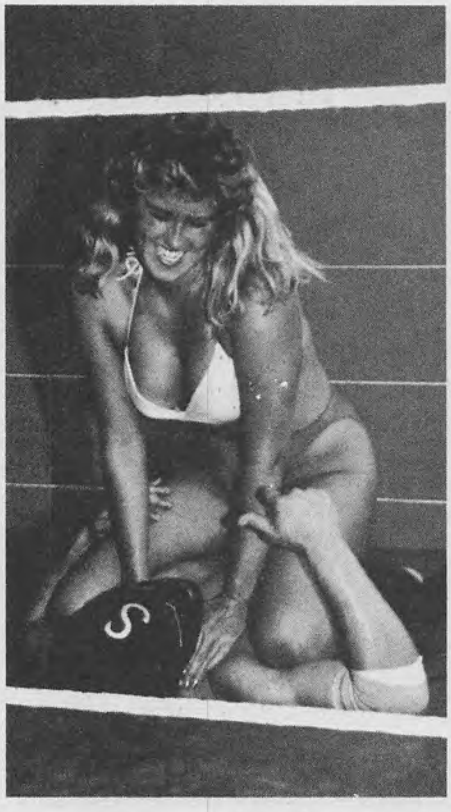
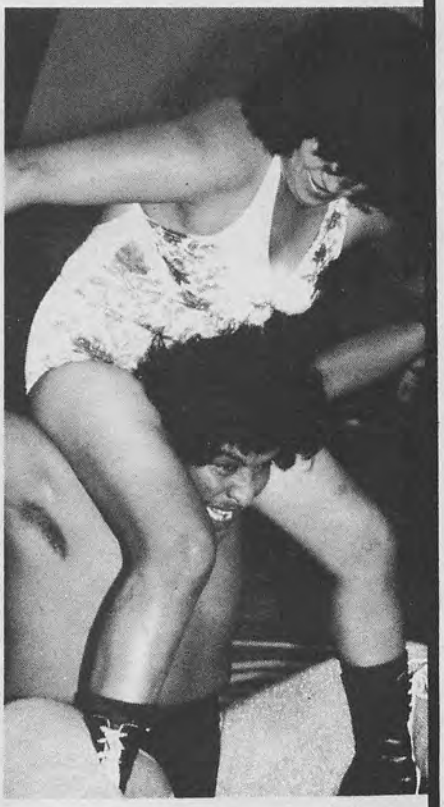


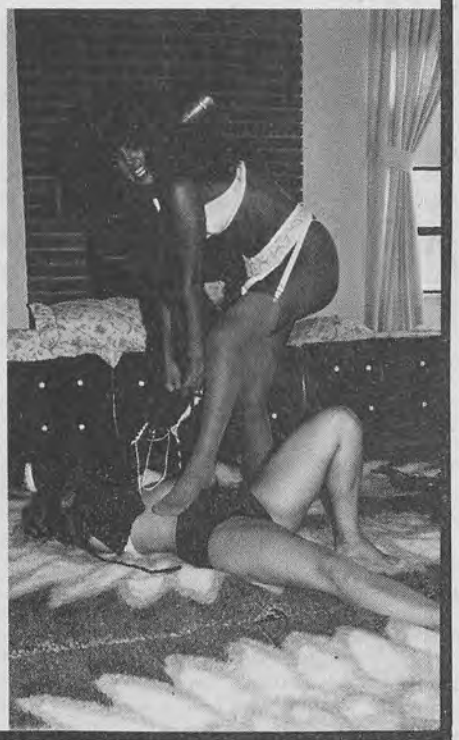
Pro Lady's





Male vs. Female

Bikini Matches



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Ric Flair is a seasoned veteran.

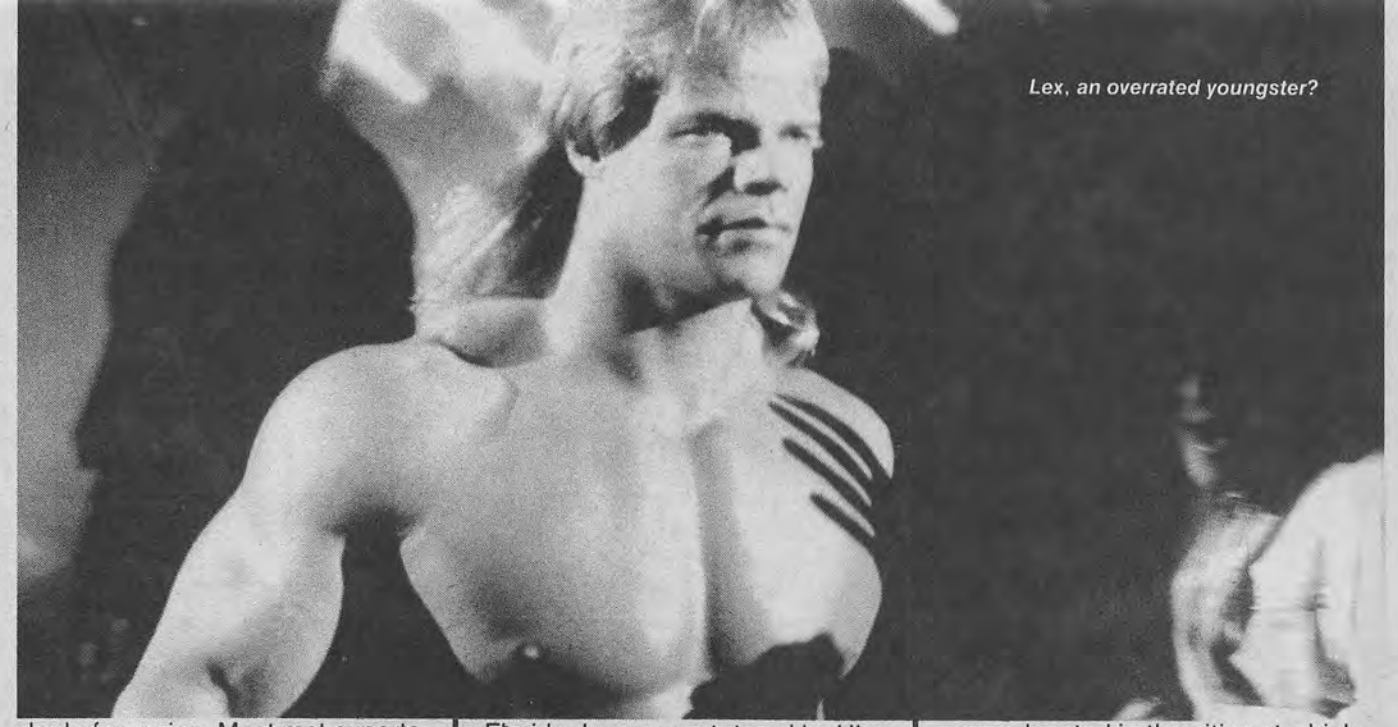
FLAIR VS LUGER

A LOOK AT THE ULTIMATE MATCH UP

By Don Liable

Unquestionably, they are two of the hottest wrestling commodities in the sport today. Sure, the name Hulk Hogan is known by children and non-wrestling fans. But, internationally speaking, two American grapplers are thought of as the future of professional wrestling in the States. They are current National Wrestling Alliance Heavyweight Champion Ric "Nature Boy" Flair and Lex Luger. Both are proven world class athletes and continue to display talents that only solidify their proclamations as being the best at what they do—wrestle. A showdown between them appears inevitable. The outcome is anyone's guess. However, there are numerous categories to reflect on that may swing your opinion on who would be the victor when they finally do sign a contract.

Although the "Nature Boy" went through his ring apprenticeship with the American Wrestling Association almost 17 years ago, the past eight years have been extremely kind and lucrative to him. Upon his arrival into the NWA, Flair rapidly rose to the level of superstardom. First there came the Mid-Atlantic Championship, then the United States Title, along with, on several occasions the NWA Tag Team Championship. Therefore, when Flair did have the prestigious NWA singles belt strapped around his waist after pinning then Champ Harley Race, there wasn't a great



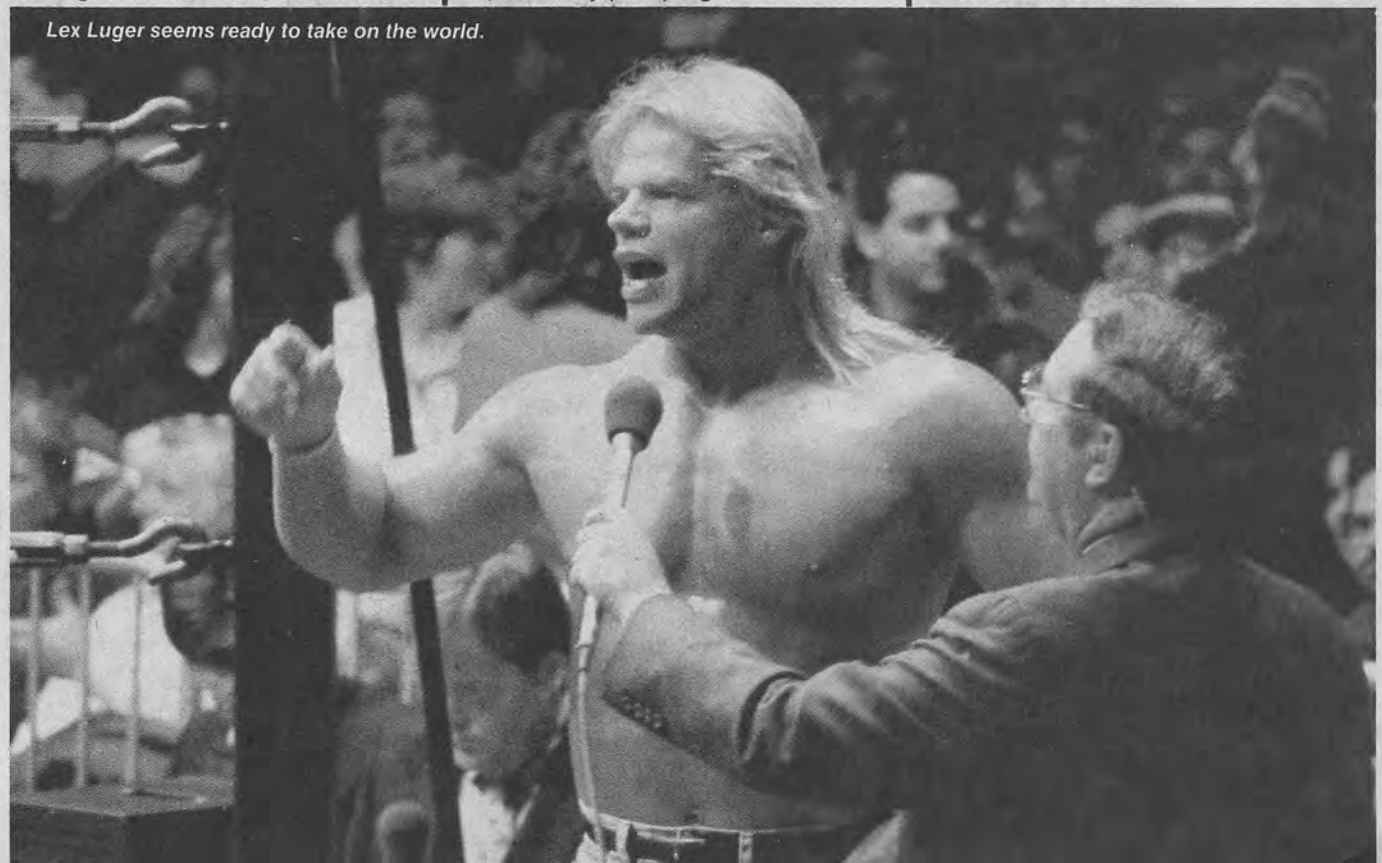
Lex, an overrated youngster?

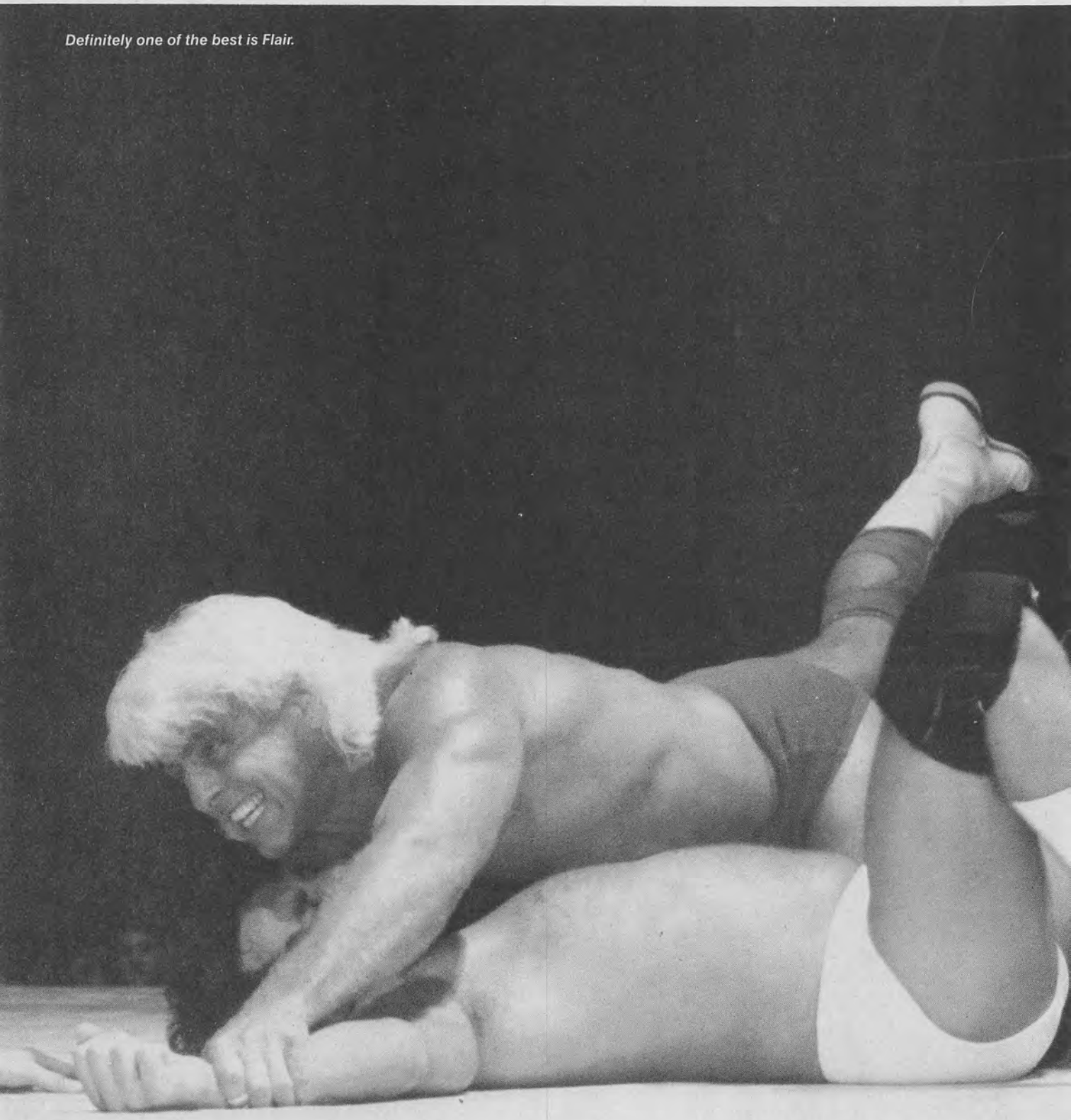
deal of surprise. Most mat experts had expected it to happen, as it was just a matter of time.

In the case of Lex Luger, like his counterpart, his current status in wrestling is something that has arrived due to his perseverence and long hours of hard work with trainers. After a brief collegiate football career and an even briefer stint in the professional ranks with the United States Football League, contrary to promotional accolades of a glorious National Football League stay, Luger put his fine athletic background to work to his advantage with wrestling. Residing in Florida, Luger was tutored by Hiro Matsuda, a retired but highly respected former wrestler and martial arts expert. After his departure from the "Sunshine State", Luger was gobbled up by Crockett Promotions. First a rulebreaker, now a fan favorite, Luger is the one name wrestling fans want to see match hold for hold with Flair. The variables between Flair and Luger aren't that wide apart. Who has the best chance of winning?

In comparing strength, Lex has proven to be the clear winner in this category. The countless hours spent daily pumping iron in the gyms located in the cities at which he appears, openly can be seen. "He's dynamic. Lex has muscles on top of his muscles. Hulk Hogan, Rick Rude or Paul Orndorff don't even come close to the body Lex displays', Jimmy Valiant, a frequent tag partner of Luger said. Flair's ring appearance and conditioning is by no means sloppy. Ric remains, and always has taken a great deal of pride in his physique. However, Lex continues to dazzle fans and opponents with his feats of power as he almost nonchalantly lifts 300 pound opponents over his head.

Lex Luger seems ready to take on the world.





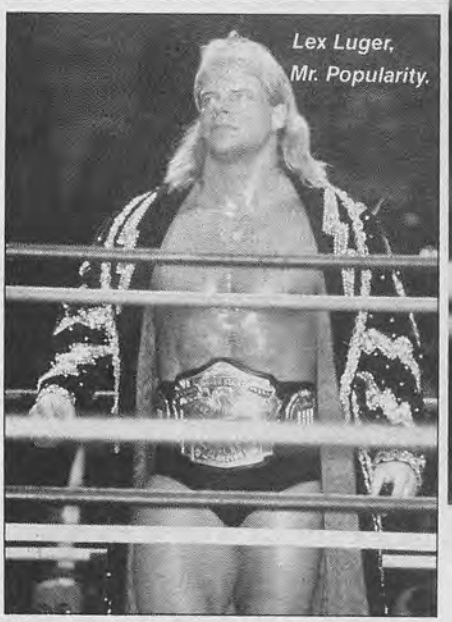
Definitely one of the best is Flair.

When comparing speed and reaction time in the ring, the Champ is clearly the victor. Not only has his wrestling repertoire contained a potent offense for years, Flair's defensive abilities to quickly and successfully counter an opponent's hold unarguably is second to none. 'Ric has turned more would be hip tosses on him into body slams on his challengers, man, he's greased lightening once the bell rings to start a match', Kevin Sullivan stated before an evening of NWA wrestling in Atlanta. Luger may not be as quick as a cat between the ropes but his actions prove he doesn't have cement boots, either.

Still early in his career, it has been noted on televised matches as well as at the arenas, Lex telegraphs many of his moves. His opponents, at times, have been able to successfully get out of a ring compromising situation with him due to his deliberate delivery. Chalk this category up in Flair's corner.

Stamina. Perhaps, along with ability, stamina is the most important ingredient in any potentially successful career. Being able to match skills with opponents for, at

A textbook competitor, Flair has wrestled the best.



Lex Luger, Mr. Popularity.

times, up to an hour requires a wrestler to masterfully think out his strategy and pace his actions accordingly, in essence, not to run our of energy too quickly. Again, the "Nature Boy" gets the nod in this comparison. Lex does put on an awesome clinic with opponents such as Dusty Rhodes, Ivan Koloff and The War Lord, but, a problem that has been persistent throughout his wrestling days, he has been winded and struggling to keep on his feet if he hasn't done away with his challenger within ten minutes. On the other hand, Flair normally is engaged in matchups that last between 30 and 60 minutes.

Wrestling ability is what has made Flair the most respected competitor in his craft. "He can do it all, get knocked around the ring, get thrown on the cement floor outside the ring and bounce back to slow down his opponent, he's the best in our business', Debbie Combs, current NWA Womans Champion said before a title defense. His bumps off the top ropes, his unforgettable dives through the ropes, the suplexs he administers clearly put Flair in a class of his own. Luger, with a few more years of experience behind him, shows all the signs of obtaining the ability level of Flair. The ring experience certainly is what puts the champ over Lex in this comparison.

The intangibles are always a tough category to compare. With all the riches of the world championship bestowed upon him for several years now, a hot question circulating presently is Ric still hungry enough to continue to handle the rigorous travel schedule burdened with being the champ? He is financially comfortable, and professionally speaking Flair has attained the final frontier, the world title in his craft. Luger, the young lion, has all the enthusiasm, dedication and ability to give Flair a serious run for his money and is a serious-upset-in-the-making threat.

The only absolute answer as to who is better would be answered when these two titans clash. Going into a title match, the World Champ Ric Flair would have to be the favorite. Although Luger prides himself on being labeled the "Total Package", Flair silences any critics on his ability to defeat Lex by reminding them of his personal favorite billing—World Champion. Flair and Luger both are winners. A match between them would make the fans winners, also. Talented individuals as these don't come along very often.

"TONY ATLAS"

"Unfulfilled Potential"

By Tom Clutters
photos by DeSpirito

Tony is friendly to his fans

(photo by B.L. Harbison)

At one time, Tony Atlas looked like he could turn out to be one of the greatest stars professional wrestling had ever seen. He was young, had a body that seemed to be cut from solid granite, and had the talent and personality to make him popular with the fans.

Now, in 1988, Tony Atlas is still "spinning his wheels" in his chosen profession, still struggling to carve his niche in the record books. Having worked in every major federation and alliance at one time or another, the Tony Atlas story still reads, "unfulfilled potential".

A former Mr. USA, Atlas is currently back in Texas, working for the Von Erichs in the World Class area. He holds the WCCW TV title, and is also one-half of the Texas tag team champions with Skip "Sweet Brown Sugar" Young. While not in the spotlight for much of 1987, Atlas remained busy, alternating between World Class and the WWC group in Puerto Rico, where he teamed up with Miguel Perez, Jr. to capture the local tag belts. During his career, the only "major" success that Atlas has enjoyed came when he and Rocky Johnson combined their talents to win the WWF tag titles. Otherwise, it's been mostly regional titles for Tony Atlas.

So what has went wrong?

"Man, I sure wish I knew what the problem is," says Atlas wistfully. "I know I'm capable of beatin' anybody who is in rasslin' today. Some of the trouble has been my own fault, but there's also been a lotta things I can't control."

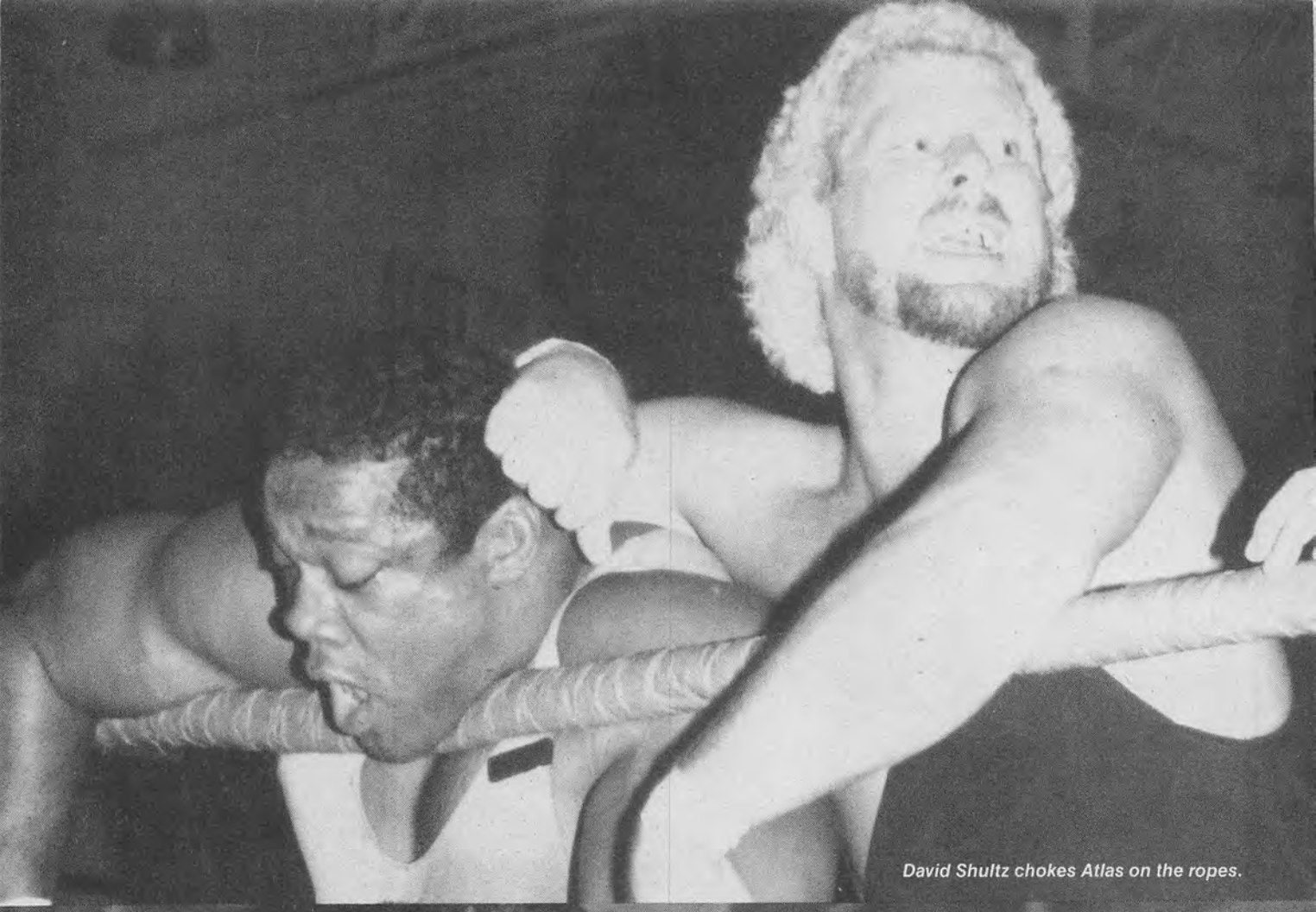
When he first started out, mat observers saw that this youngster from Roanoake, VA, had the potential to be not only one of the sport's best black athletes, but one of the best, period. Some have said that Tony's easy-going attitude has been one factor in his lack of success. Sometimes he got "pushed around" by the politics of the sport. Other times, unsavory promoters tried to use Atlas to make their own stars look good. While Atlas admits to having been very naive in his early days in the sport, he also knows that he has "wised up" over the years.

"Yeah, I was just an ol' country boy goin' into the big city. I didn't have no friends, and I had to learn the hard way. Now that I've got smart about the business, a lot of promoters and officials don't want nothin' to do with me," he said. "They'd like for me to be like I was before, but this ol' boy ain't gonna play them games anymore!"

One major source of disappointment to the loyal Tony Atlas fans has been his inability to rise to the levels enjoyed by other black superstars of the past. While men like Bobo Brazil and Ernie Ladd will certainly end up in pro wrestling's Hall of Fame (should there ever be such a thing), there is a noted lack of black stars in the game today. In fact, with the exception of Atlas and maybe "The Natural" Butch Reed, no black grappler has made a deep impression on today's wrestling scene. While Atlas takes a great deal of pride in his heritage, he is fully aware of the situation. "I'm proud to be a black man, and proud to be an American," he flatly states. "I don't know what the deal is with this business today. I don't think there's that many young black men who want to try it in the first place, and a lot of those that do get discouraged real fast."

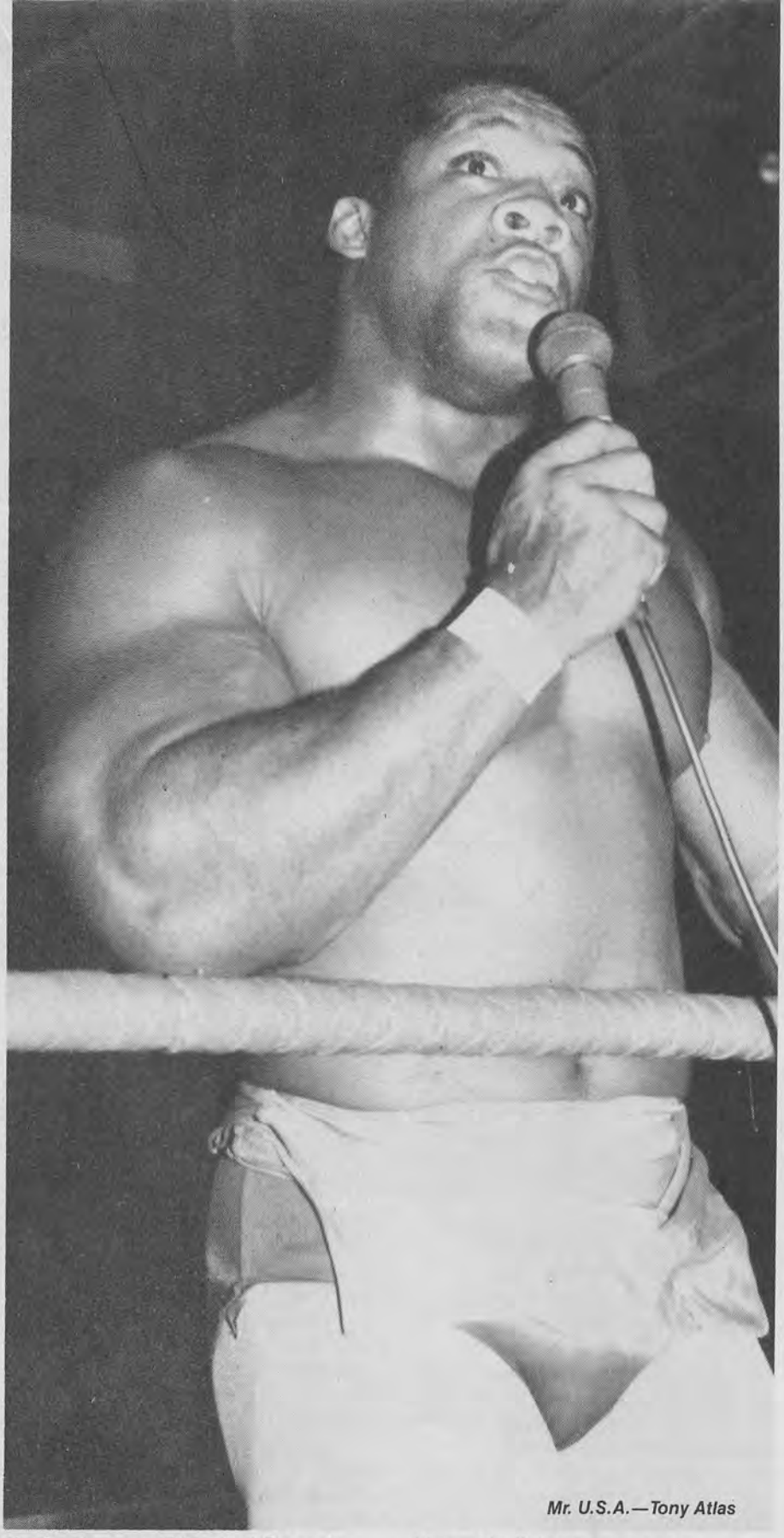
Some of the best times of Tony's career came during his days in Georgia, where he and Tommy "Wildfire" Rich formed a highly-rated tag team. Known collectively as "T and T", Atlas and Rich feuded with, and defeated, all of

The doc stitches up a weary Tony Atlas.



David Shultz chokes Atlas on the ropes.

Atlas takes control.



Mr. U.S.A.—Tony Atlas

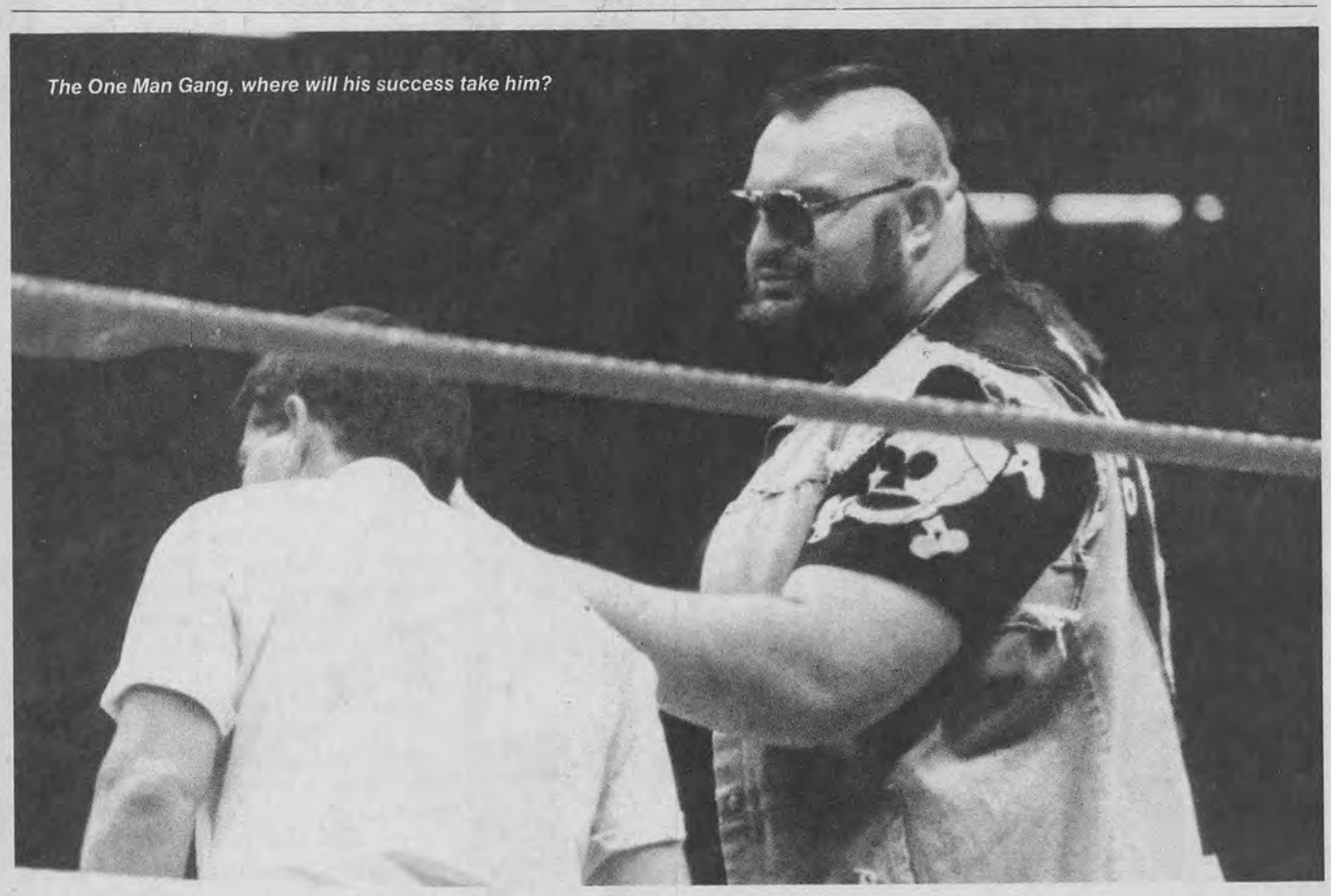
the best competition that Georgia Championship Wrestling could throw at them. They were the most popular team in the area while they were together, and were considered a top threat to all titles. "Me an' Tommy, we had a pretty good thing goin," Atlas remembers. "We beat the best, and you gotta remember, there were some pretty tough dudes in Georgia in those days." After a while, however, most of the top competitors refused to sign against Atlas & Rich, and it became apparent that their days as a team were numbered. After finally parting company, the careers of both men seemed to gradually slide downhill. Even though Rich managed to win the NWA title for a brief time, he soon ran into problems, and wound up a hated rule-breaker in the Mid-South area, feuding with the legendary Jerry Lawler. Even though he has advanced into the AWA in recent months, Wildfire's star has lost much of its luster. Basically, the two old friends find themselves in much the same situation. Would it be possible for them to re-form their team, and maybe mount a serious challenge against the likes of maybe the Four Horsemen or even whoever might be the WWF champions? "I've thought about that sometimes," Atlas admits. "But I don't hear from Tommy that much anymore, so I can't say how he really feel about it."

Atlas also hears little from two more of his friends and allies from the past, namely Rocky Johnson and former AWA champion Rick Martel. Johson is currently working the "free agent" game, moving from place to place, working for both independent and small federations. Martel, on the other hand, is one-half of the current WWF tag team champions with Tito Santana. "I keep up as best I can with where Rocky is workin', but sometimes it's kinda hard to do. I have run into him a couple of times the last couple of years, but not very often. Rick has done pretty good for himself since we were both in the AWA. He's darn good rassler, and he's been like a brother to me," Tony says. "I can keep up with him just by watchin' TV, since him and Tito are on all the time."

The one obvious goal right now for Tony Atlas would be to mount a challenge against current World Class king Al Perez. Always before, the belt was in the possession of one of Tony's friends, like Kevin Von Erich or Chris Adams, and Atlas didn't seriously consider getting a title shot. There's also the possibility that Atlas and Young could move up to challenge for the WCCW tag team titles. In any event, Tony Atlas is aware that he might have to try either the NWA or WWF again in order to rewrite his career story.

"ONE MAN GANG"

"TIME TO CHANGE HIS WAYS!"



The One Man Gang, where will his success take him?

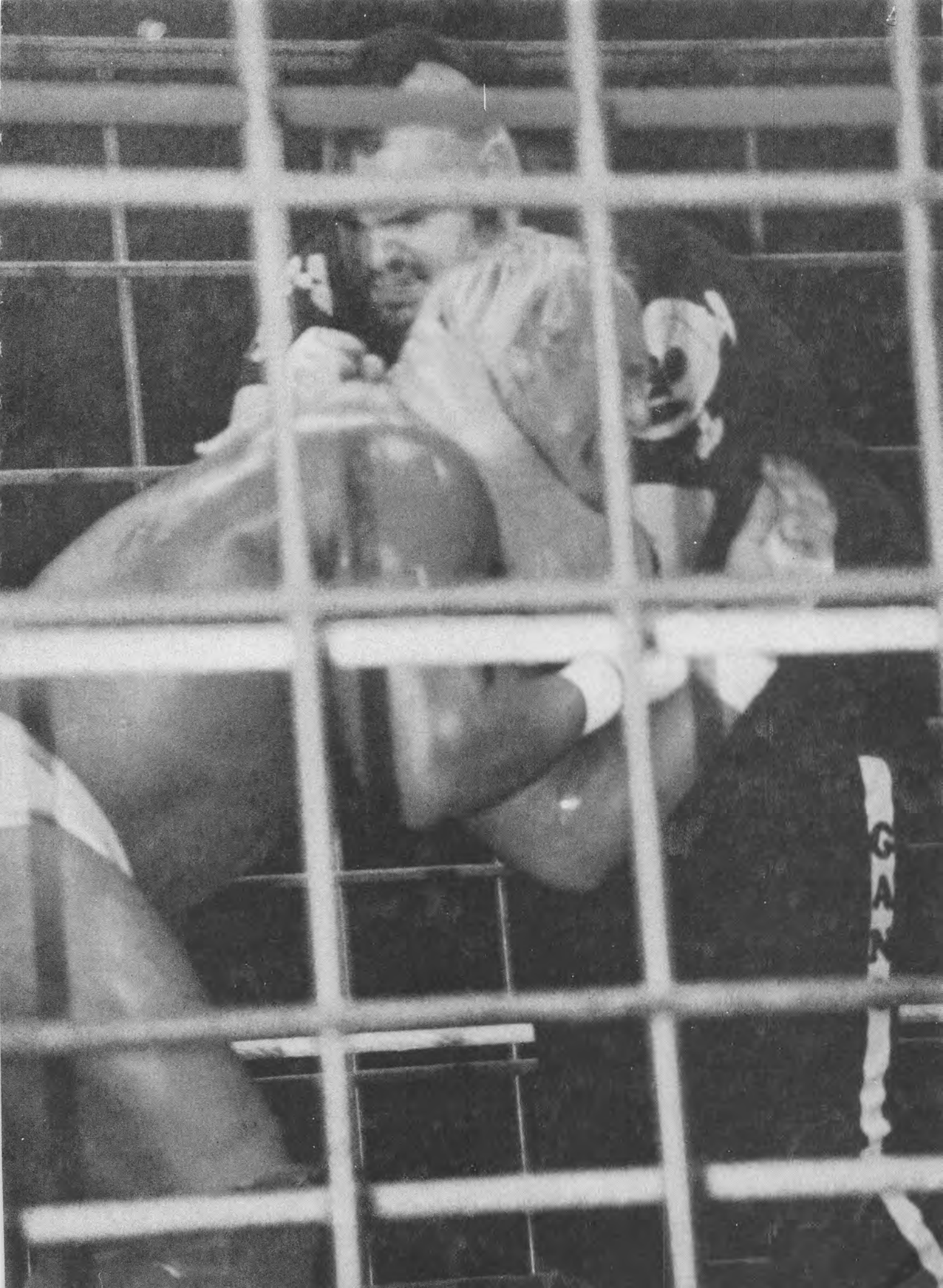
By Bobby Sanders

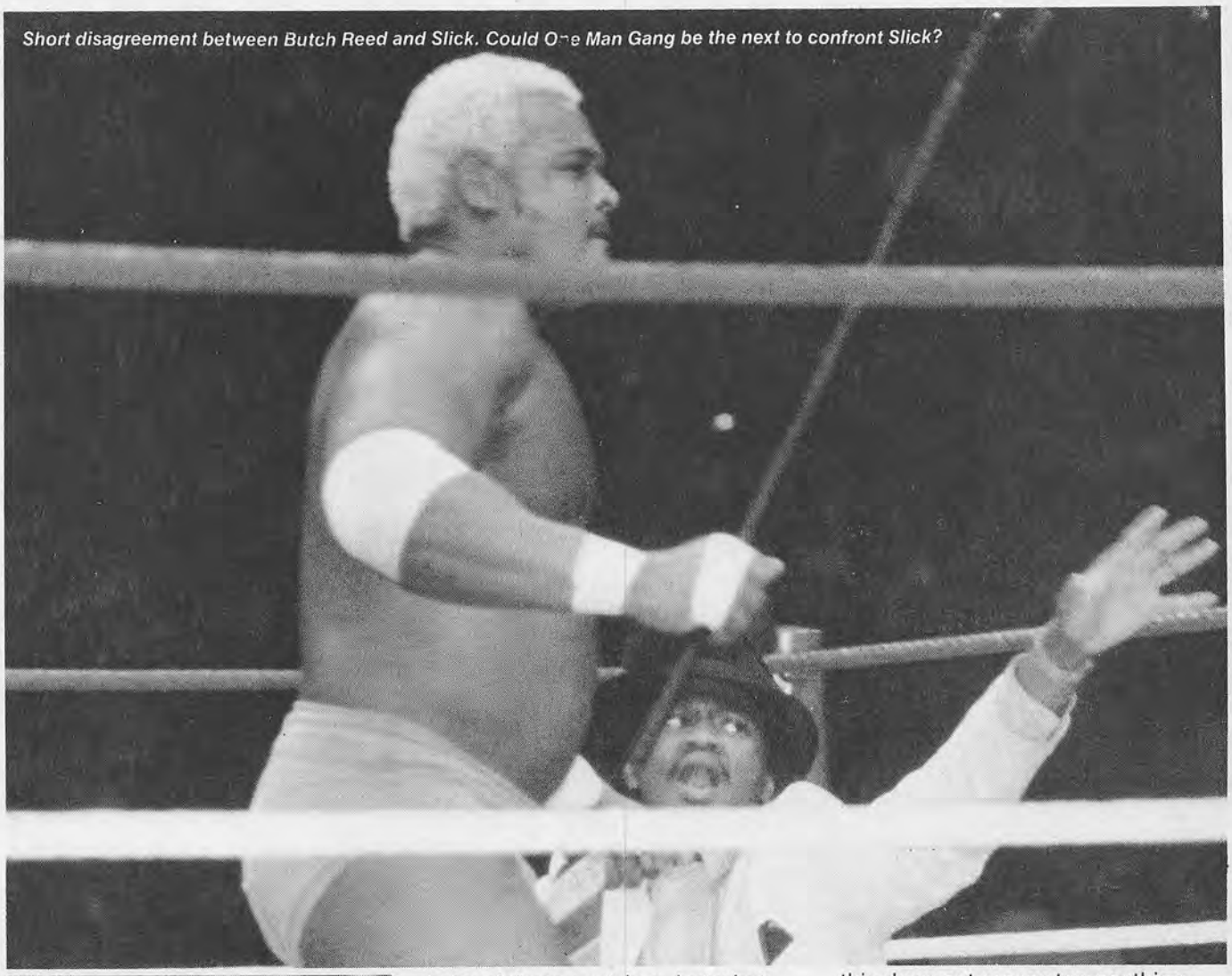
Four years ago a distinctive, monsterous mass of a man from Chicago has been on the scene and since then is unrelentlessly striving to capture a major wrestling championship. Toughness, roughness, strength, skills, stature, and ability have not been the reasons for the gentleman's allurement from a world title. This man whom we speak of is none other than 300 lbs. plus of George Gray A.K.A. The One Man Gang. The One Man Gang has wrestled in just about every promotional territory known. Florida, Texas, New York, California, including various tours to the Orient and Europe have not gained the One Man Gang a major wrestling title.

A certain individual had this to say about the One Man Gang—"He's still young yet, you people just watch my man, the One Man Gang is going to show the wrestling world in a very short time, what he's really made out of. Under my guidance, the Gang cannot fail!" That latter quote was from the dubious mouth of the manager of the One Man Gang, rightfully and simply named "Slick".

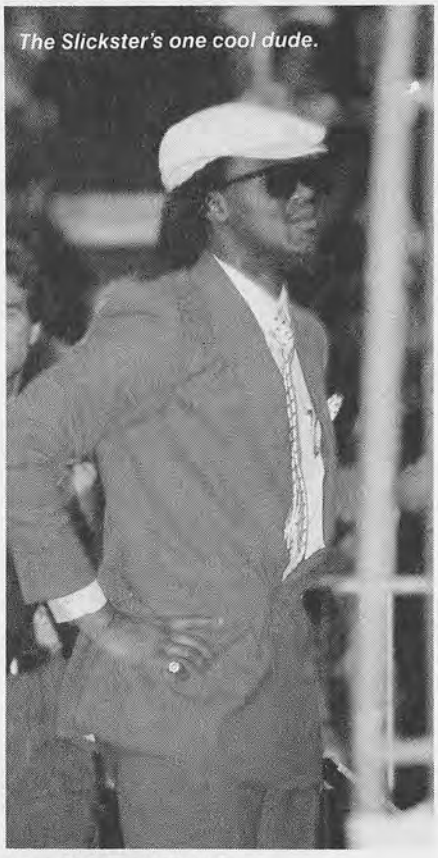
The One Man Gang has wrestled everyone that's anyone in the World Wrestling Federation, but has been unsuccessful in securing a record of pinfalls over the W.W.F.'s luminaries. "It will be only a matter of time, my man," Slick said. "The Gang will prove HIMSELF shortly. He will also prove that his manager the "Slickster" always was and always will be, the greatest manager ever to be employed by the World Wrestling Federation."

A look at the One Man Gang's career in the W.W.F., tells the story of what he has accomplished since he has aligned himself with the Slickster and that's Nothing, virtually nothing. Sure he's wrestled some of the greatest ever to grace the squared circle, from Hogan to Savage to Steamboat but where have these confrontations brought him? Slick probably secured a ma-





Short disagreement between Butch Reed and Slick. Could One Man Gang be the next to confront Slick?



The Slickster's one cool dude.

jority of these matches, but what seems to be the problem?

For the past year that Slick has been associated with the W.W.F. he has not accomplished anything either. The Bolsheviks, Butch Reed, and the One Man Gang are all not the most victorious of men in the World Wrestling Federation. Basically, you could blatantly say that Slick is a "LOSER". It also seems that anyone that the Slickster associates with are "LOSERS".

Why then has the One Man Gang stayed with Slick for this lengthy amount of time? Surely, the man must have been thinking what all of his draw backs have been caused by. The One Man Gang has three paths to take, either drop Slick, leave the W.W.F. all together, or maybe just rearrange his goals and change his attitude. If he leaves Slick, it's possible he can join with another manager such as Bobby Heenan or Jimmy Hart, both of whom have been extremely successful in the past, but this does not guarantee anything. On the other hand, if he leaves the World Wrestling Federation, and attempts to sign with another organization, there are no concrete promises either. A change in attitude though is a thought that the One Man Gang should seriously consider. The Gang would definitely go over with the fans as a favorite. A change in this respect may be the answer to the Gang securing a major title, either the World's title or the Intercontinental title.

Remember back about six years ago? A tall, blonde, devious rulebreaker from Venice Beach, California changed his ways? That man was Hulk Hogan, who went on to become W.W.F. World champion and the most notable wrestling attraction of all time. Now doesn't the One Man Gang also have that same potential?

A message to the One Man Gang, drop Slick and change your attitude. Guaranteed you'll be champ within one year's time.

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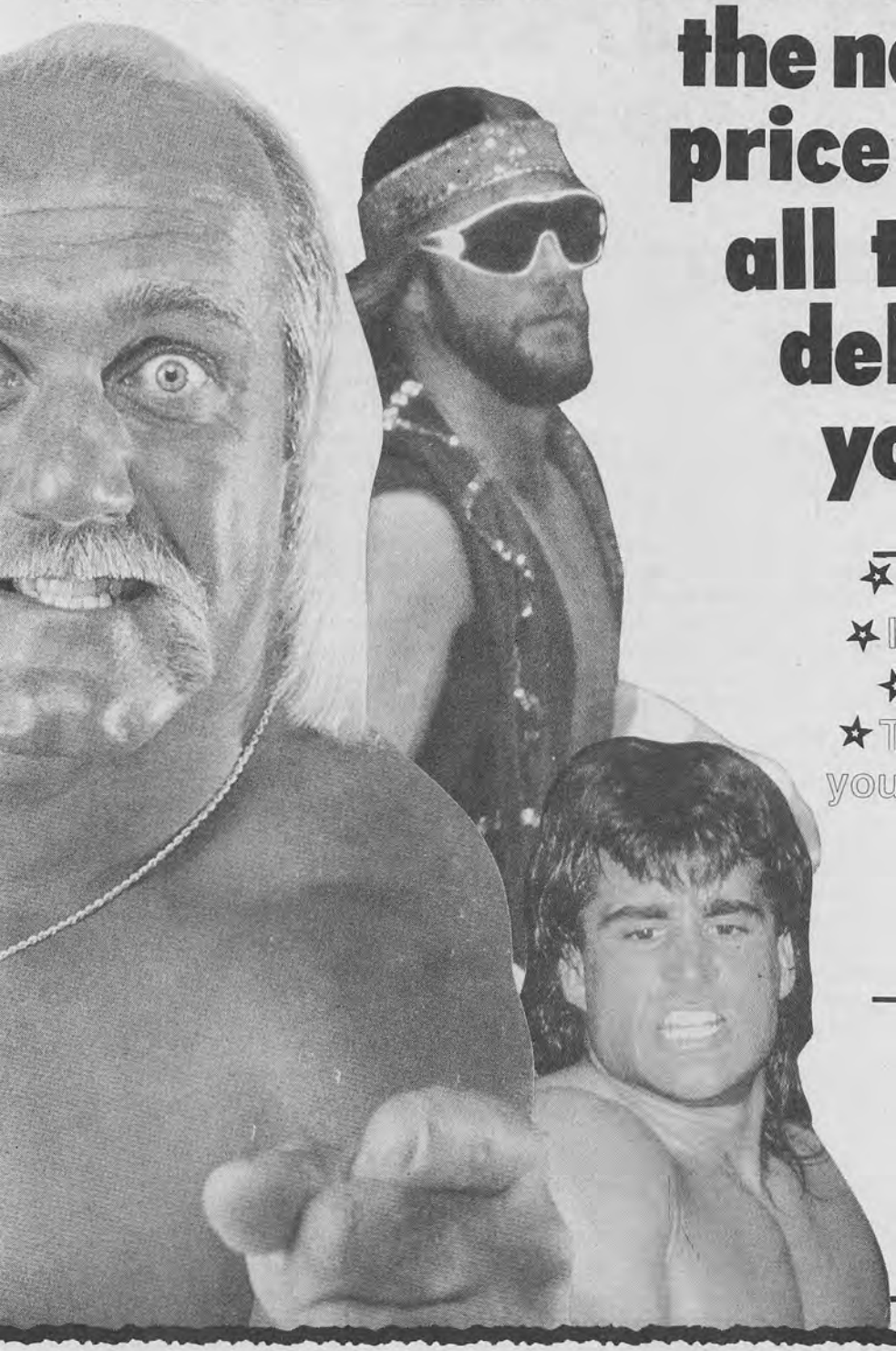

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"TULLY BLANCHARD"

"THE HORSEMEN'S BAD APPLE?"

By Tom Clutters, photos by DeSpirito

When you discuss wrestling's Four Horsemen these days, you're talking about a study in contrasts. On the one hand, the Horsemen are riding high right now, with "Nature Boy" Ric Flair still holding the NWA World Heavyweight title, and Arn Anderson and Tully Blanchard currently reigning as the World Tag Team champions. With James J. Dillon showing the way and plotting the strategies, as always, the Horsemen couldn't be more successful inside the ring.

However, over the past few months, there have been some rumblings coming from within the Horsemen camp. After Lex Luger had his change of heart and decided to leave the group to pursue his career in his own way, Flair, Anderson and Blanchard came very close to losing their togetherness. For several weeks, Dillon scrambled to try to find a suitable replacement for Luger. After failing to attract Barry Windham into the fold with a staggering offer, Dillon put his plans on hold. Rumors abounded, with names like Bob Orton, Greg Valentine and even Ronnie Garvin mentioned as possible Horsemen, but nothing was confirmed.

For some time now, there have been whispers of dissent among the organization. While Dillon did his best to quiet the talk, you could tell that something wasn't quite right. While Dillon has tried to smooth things over, Flair and Anderson have more or less chosen to keep quiet on the subject.

As for Tully Blanchard, he has never hesitated to express his opinion.

"Why is it that all of you media people have to constantly yap about trouble with the Four Horsemen?" he demanded. "If anyone would take the time to look, you'd see that we have the three most coveted titles in the world in our possession. We have everything that we could possibly want or need, and I can't imagine how the circumstances could be any more ideal."

According to Blanchard, selecting a fourth member of the group isn't something that can be rushed. "Look, we all agreed on Windham, and J.J. made him a very lucrative offer. For a fellow Texan to be so dumb as to turn it down, well, that's Windham's loss. After that, we decided to just take our time, and make our selection carefully. To be asked to join the Four Horsemen is a tremendous honor that only a fool would refuse. Ole Anderson couldn't deal with it; Luger couldn't deal with it. Luger thinks that his career will really take off now, but after we get through with him, he'll be begging to rejoin us."

While refusing to name names, Blanchard did admit that some of professional wrestling's biggest stars have been considered as possible Horsemen. "Yeah, you could say that we've talked about some of the sport's 'big boys', says Tully. "But like I said, this is not something to rush into. You're talking about the most elite group of professionals in the world. When we decide who will be the fourth member, you can be guaranteed that it wasn't a rash decision."

On the surface, it appears as if the Horsemen have no worries whatsoever. But the recent reappearance of Ole Anderson on the scene to help Luger has opened up some old wounds. Ole, who is credited with having founded the Horsemen years ago, was the first to leave the fold after he and Blanchard collided over the issue of family. Most of you will remember that Ole passed up on some bookings in order to watch his son participate in a scholastic wrestling meet last year. Blanchard became the most outspoken Anderson critic, and the two eventually clashed on national television, with the end result being that Ole was dismissed from the group after a violent and bloody feud. "Ole got very personal about the whole thing," recalls Blanchard. "He called me an outsider, saying that I was not a member of the 'family'. Well, I suffered and sacrificed right alongside everyone else. I proved myself over and over, and earned my right to be called a Horseman. In fact, I was more loyal to the Horsemen than he was. He left us hanging more than once so that he

Blanchard attempts to weasel himself out of the cage.

could watch that kid of his wrestle. This is a business. This is how we make our living. Maybe his kid was more important to him, but earning a living means more to the rest of us. That's just the Horsemen way, and we had to teach that to Ole Anderson."

The recent incidents involving Lex Luger also touches some raw nerves. "Luger came to us, and asked us to join. We eventually took him in, because he had the talent and the attitude to be one of us," said Blanchard. We did everything together, we taught Luger the ropes, so to speak. But we never expected him to be as stupid as he turned out to be. Luger was never a team player, he was always interested in himself. We thought that it was just a phase he was going through, but when it became apparent that it was more, we had to deal with it."

Luger's eyes began to open during Starrcade '87, when he lost the U.S. Heavyweight title to Dusty Rhodes. Luger had confided that he was uncomfortable with the 'game plan' going in, but was determined to prove his loyalty to the Horsemen. After about 15 minutes of action, both Luger and Rhodes were lying in the ring, and Dillon tossed a chair inside the steel cage. The plan backfired when Rhodes applied a DDT to Luger on the chair, and pinned him for the victory. "Luger agreed to J.J.'s plan before he went inside that cage. James has the most brilliant mind in professional wrestling. It wasn't the plan that was flawed; it was Luger's execution," Tully claims.

Blanchard became directly involved soon afterward during the first of the Bunkhouse Stampede series, which began in Miami. As the stampede match wound down, it left Luger, Blanchard, Anderson and Dillon standing in the ring as the final four survivors. After a brief conference, it was decided that Dillon would be allowed to win the match. The other three would simply throw themselves over the top rope, and J.J. would be credited with the victory, and the $25,000 first prize. Blanchard and Anderson immediately went out, leaving only Luger and Dillon in the ring. Lex hesitated, bringing Anderson to the ring apron to find out what was going on. "Don't worry about it," Luger told him. "I know what I'm doing. I'll do what's right." He then proceeded to throw Dillon out of the ring, and win the match. This brought Arn and Tully in, and eventually, the Horsemen brought Lex down with a chair. Only the appearance of several wrestlers from the dressing room saved Luger from serious injury.

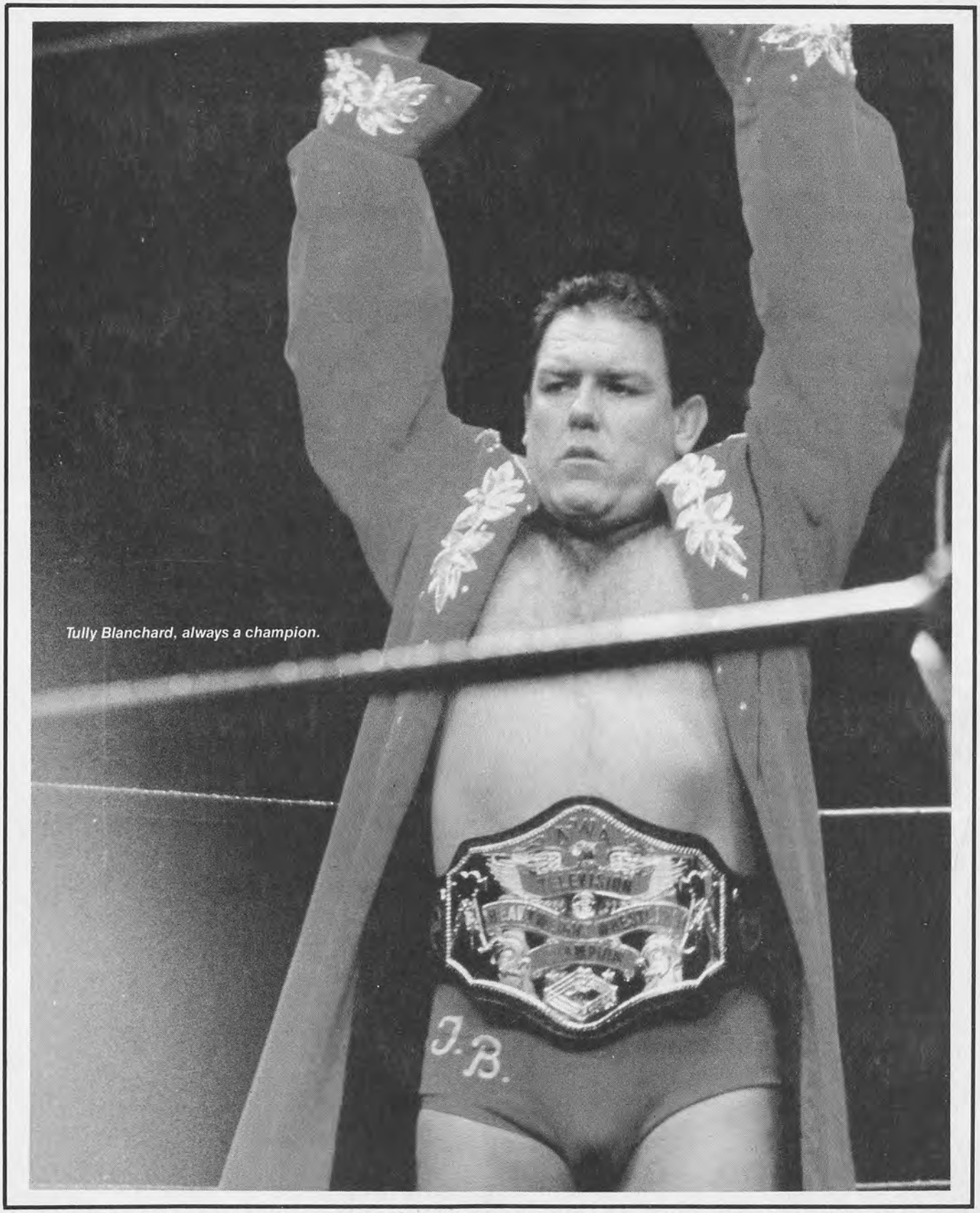
"It's like this, pal. I know what it takes to be a champion. I know what it takes to be a Horseman. Arn knows, Flair knows, and J.J. knows. We're all part of this sport's most elite group, and we're all world champions. If you don't have what it takes, you're not going to be able to be one of us." said Blanchard.

How about the time, only a couple of years ago, when Tully Blanchard and Ric Flair were bitter enemies? A lot of harsh words were exchanged, and a lot of blood was spilled when Tully and J.J. tried to lift the Nature Boy's title. "Why the hell do you people keep bringing this stuff up," shouted Blanchard. "That was a long time ago. Things were much different then. Flair and I settled our problems ages ago, and you refuse to let it die!"

That might be so, but many people now believe that the old memories of clashes between themselves are partly responsible for the unsettled condition of the Horsemen today. When you have so much talent and such large egos together in one place, there is bound to be friction. And with recent history being what it is, it seems only a matter of time before the whole thing will explode. The fact that all of the Horsemen are extremely touchy about the subject adds even further to the rumors.

Like he said, Tully Blanchard knows what it takes to be a champion. He is a former U.S. champion, and former World TV champ. Now, he is one-half of the World tag team champs. The next logical step would be for the San Antonio, TX, native son to set his sights on the biggest prize of all. While not quite Ric Flair's equal in box office appeal, Tully is certainly one of the best technical wrestlers in the world, and is very capable of exchanging Flair hold for hold. But when confronted about his own aspirations to be world champ, Blanchard is evasive. "I am a world

Tully Blanchard is made of rough rawhide.



Tully Blanchard, always a champion.

champion now. For anyone to think that I would want the NWA title while my friend Ric Flair holds it, well, I don't want to talk about it!"

The whole situation with Tully Blanchard and the Four Horsemen will eventually be resolved. No one can say for sure what is going to take place. The Horsemen may be around forever, or they may be dissolved before 1988 is over. As for Blanchard himself, he remains adamant about the situation. "For the last time, there is no dissent among the Four Horsemen," he states. "We have all of the world titles, and we have all the material things in life a person could ever want. Things could not be better. There is no dissent. You hear me? THERE IS NO DISSENT!"

Okay, Tully. But you won't mind if we stick around to see if you're right, do you?

"Bobby Eaton"

"Wrestling's High Flyer"

By Don Liable

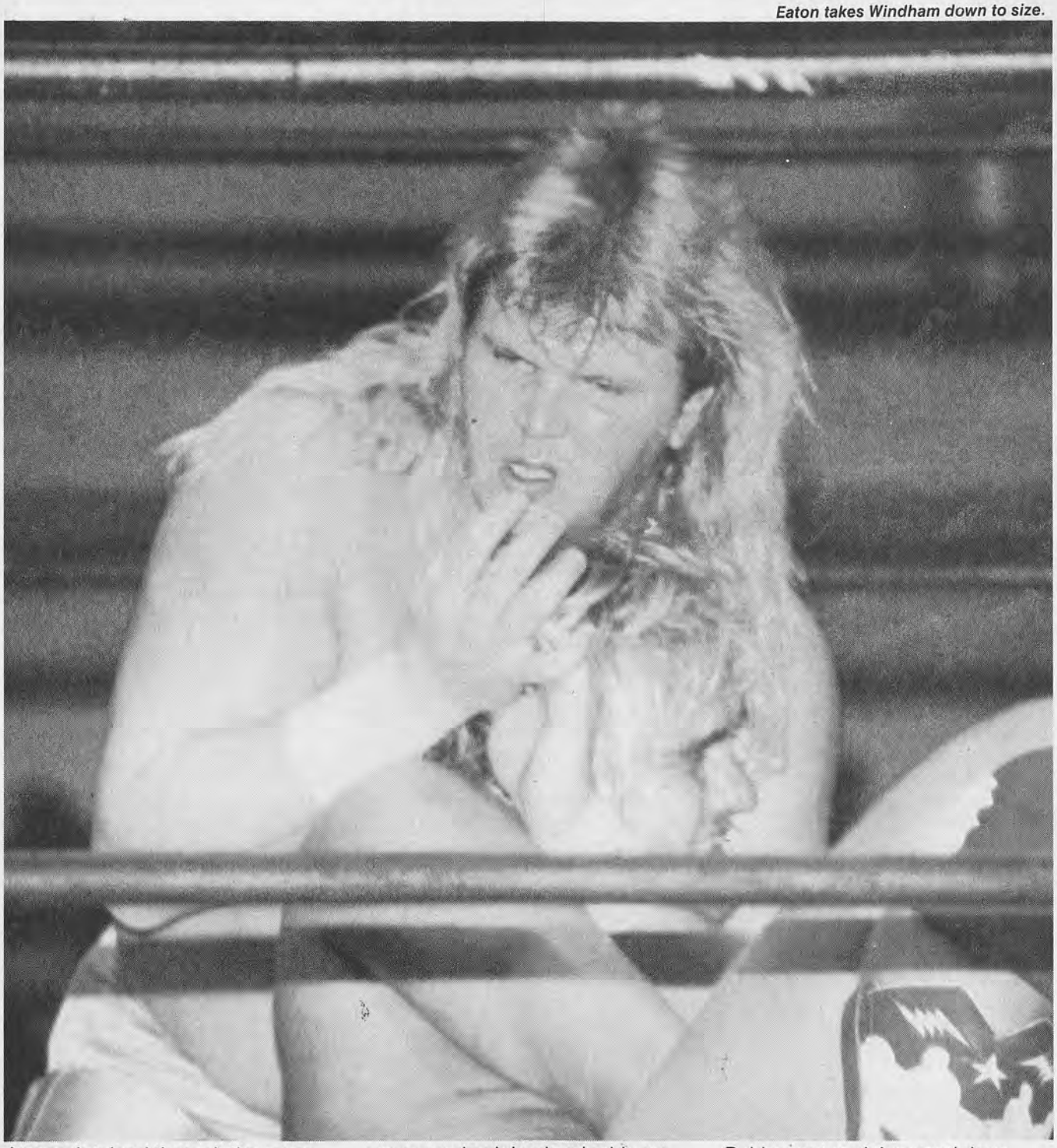
At times it appears his ring actions rewrite the laws of gravity. No wrestler in modern time has utilized the ring ropes, specifically the top one to put the finishing touches on a weakened opponent. During matches in television studios taped for millions to view, it has become a regular ritual, and necessity for him to adjust the lights above the ring to avoid his damaging them. As high as "Beautiful" Bobby Eaton, one half of the National Wrestling Alliance's premiere tag team—the Midnight Express, flies over his foes, there was a time when his career was stagnant and appeared grounded.

It's been twelve years since Bobby Eaton had his first pro match. Eaton, a native of Huntsville, Alabama, eager to land a sponsor to learn the wrestling trade contacted promoters throughout the Southeastern area. With an impressive high school wrestling reputation to his credit, long time Nashville wrestling czar and NWA trustee Nick Gulas took a gamble on the teenager. At the time of Eaton's arrival in Tennessee, George Gulas, the promoter's son was in need of a tag team partner. Starting out and in need of a respected grappler to 'bring him along', Eaton leaped at the opportunity to fill the void. In 1977, Bobby and George became a successful partnership known throughout the South as "The Jet Set". Within six months, their careers really took off.

Perhaps it was that initial taste with tag team competition that hooked Eaton on feeling more comfortable in the ring with a partner. With George Gulas showing the way, along with Bobby, the Jet Set roared on. Randy Savage, Dutch Mantel, Whipper Watson, Jr. and Tojo Yamamoto, all established veterans, publicly targeted the "Jet Set" as their top priority in their quests to land a shot at the Mid-America Tag Team Championship. With improvements in every match, thanks to exciting matches highlighted by the leaping and flying antics of Eaton, southern wrestling "hot bed" cities such as Tuscaloosa, Birmingham, Chattanooga and Louisville began to see their arenas fill up twofold, with the presence of Eaton and George Gulas.

Within a year on the pro circuit, thanks to his unpredictable ring work and by being viewed by almost two million homes a week on matches presented on the American Cable Network, Bobby Eaton became an established wrestling personality. He let his blonde hair grow to shoulder length, which he

Definitely a misunderstood and underrated personality.



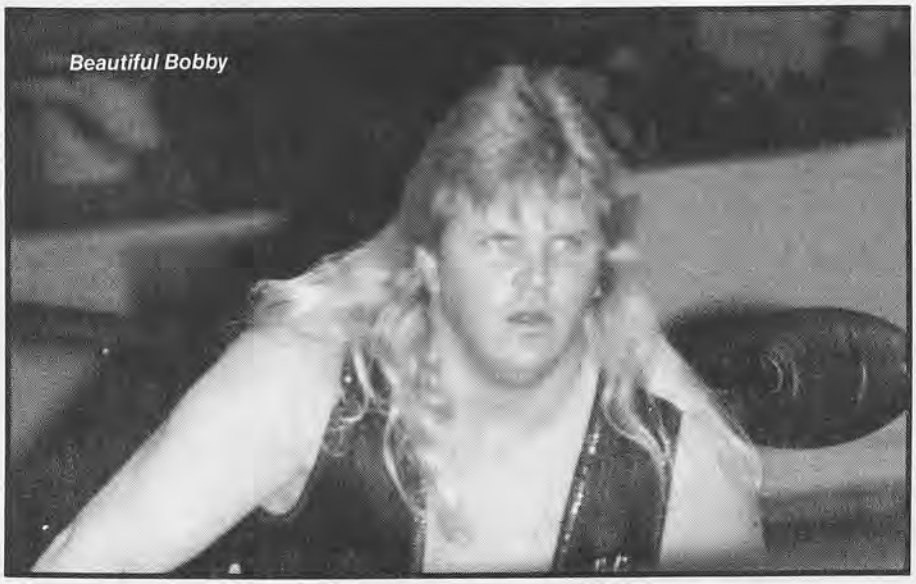
Eaton takes Windham down to size.

has maintained through the years, and his wrestling trunks gave way to a flashy, eye catching ring wardrobe of colorful tights and boots. After Bobby and George secured the Mid-America Tag Team Championship from Whipper Watson, Jr. and Ripper Collins, their professional goals in the Nashville based NWA affiliate peaked.

George had no plans on leaving his home territory. As for Bobby Eaton, he was ready to be unleashed nationally as well as internationally. For the next several years of perfecting his aerial moves and gaining invaluable experience, Bobby did well in individual competition but was constantly on the look out for a tag partner. In 1983, Bobby was introduced to a manager who was just breaking into the sport. Jim Cornette, a young, well-groomed, loudmouth who appeared to be the second coming of the late Grand Wizard, was looking to form a wrestling stable, courtesy of his wealthy mother's checkbook. Two weeks before the two met for the first time, Cornette was in attendence at the Mid-South Coliseum in Memphis when Bobby captured the prestigious Southern Title from "Superstar" Bill Dundee.

From that initial conference to the present, Eaton and Cornette, both approximately the same age, get along quite well. The duo are not just manager and employee but have established a close out of ring friendship with each other's family.

Along with his manager, Eaton moved on to Texas rings. Knowing Bobby excelled and felt more at ease in tag competition, Mama Cornette opened her purse strings



Beautiful Bobby

once again to please her son. Jim signed up "Lover Boy" Dennis Condrey, another Tennesseean who had not only faired well in singles competition including a pinfall victory over Jerry "The King" Lawler in Jonesboro, Arkansas, but was impressive in tag battles for Promoter Gulas with Dr. D-David Schultz as his partner.

"Beautiful" Bobby, a nickname tagged on him by all the young ladies envious of his long, blonde locks, was now at his happiest since the time when he and George Gulas teamed. The first stop in Texas was for Houston Promoter Paul Boesch. Constantly on the go in the ring and flying onto opponents almost at will from the top ropes, Cornette dubbed his men "The Midnight Express". With each match, Bobby seemed to get better and display daring leaps that resembled that of the wrestling prevalent in Mexico and Japan.

Shuttling back and forth between the Boesch promotions and the World Class Championship Wrestling group in Dallas, Eaton's ring abilities became common conversation in arenas throughout the Southwest. In virtually all of Eaton and Condrey's matches, it was Dennis who set up an opponent with a fist or two to the mid-section enabling "Beautiful" Bobby to deliver the final blow, a flying dropkick or "atomic knee drop", to flatten and finish off the competition.

The Midnight Express began to attract international attention. Two invitations to tag tournaments in Japan were the first overseas action for Cornette's boys. Tours of Australia and Singapore followed next.

Upon returning to the States, Eaton and his partner, along with "Blabber Mouth" Cornette, hooked up with Jim Crockett Promotions of the NWA. Crockett Promotions, whose matches air weekly by the Turner Broadcasting Cable Network, was in the process of going on a national tour. An athlete of Bobby's talents solidify the credibility of the promotion as being big-time.

In every area where the Midnight Express appeared, as the duo entered the ring, anticipation grew as to what Bobby would do off the top rope. Soft spoken, appearing rather nonchalant, almost smug with confidence, Bobby continues to put his opponents away in a rather easy but exciting fashion.

Some experts speculate all the media coverage bestowed upon Eaton caused Condrey to break up the successful team. Before and after Condrey departed the scene and Stan Lane became the newest member of the Midnight Express, the NWA World Tag Team Championship and United States Tag Titles have become part of Bobby's trophy case. On the Crockett lineup for several years now, Bobby's ring actions continue to thrill audiences.

He wins with pizzazz. He keeps you coming back for more. Like a pilot, "Beautiful" Bobby flying around the ring as a small, but devastating bomber is exciting to watch. All the riches and critical acclaim that has come Eaton's way is no fluke but a result of hard work. Bobby Eaton is a believer in the buddy system. Counting on his partner, and vise versa, is Bobby's nitch that will one day prove to be his vehicle to being remembered as one of wrestling's greatest tag team performers of all-time.

A little peck on the cheek from Cornette.

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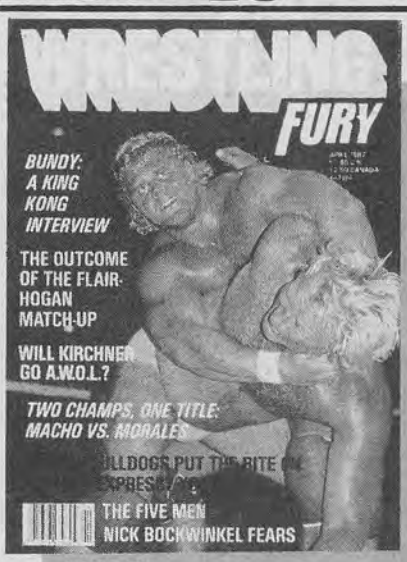

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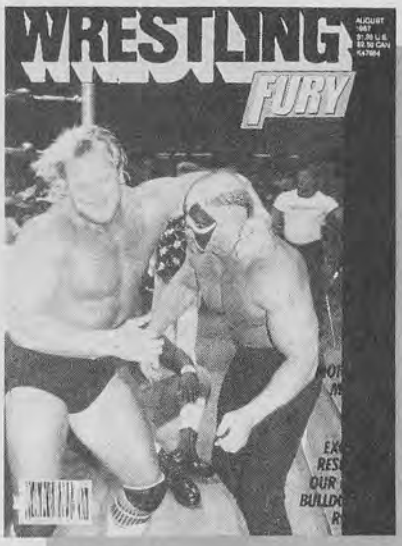

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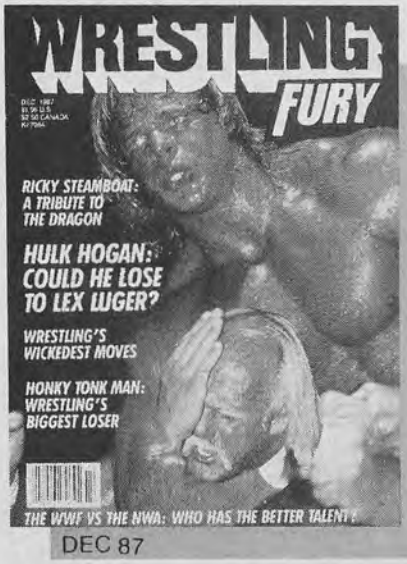

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"SHOULD HE RETIRE?"

Dusty, years gone by.

Dusty is casual out of the ring.

By Don Liable

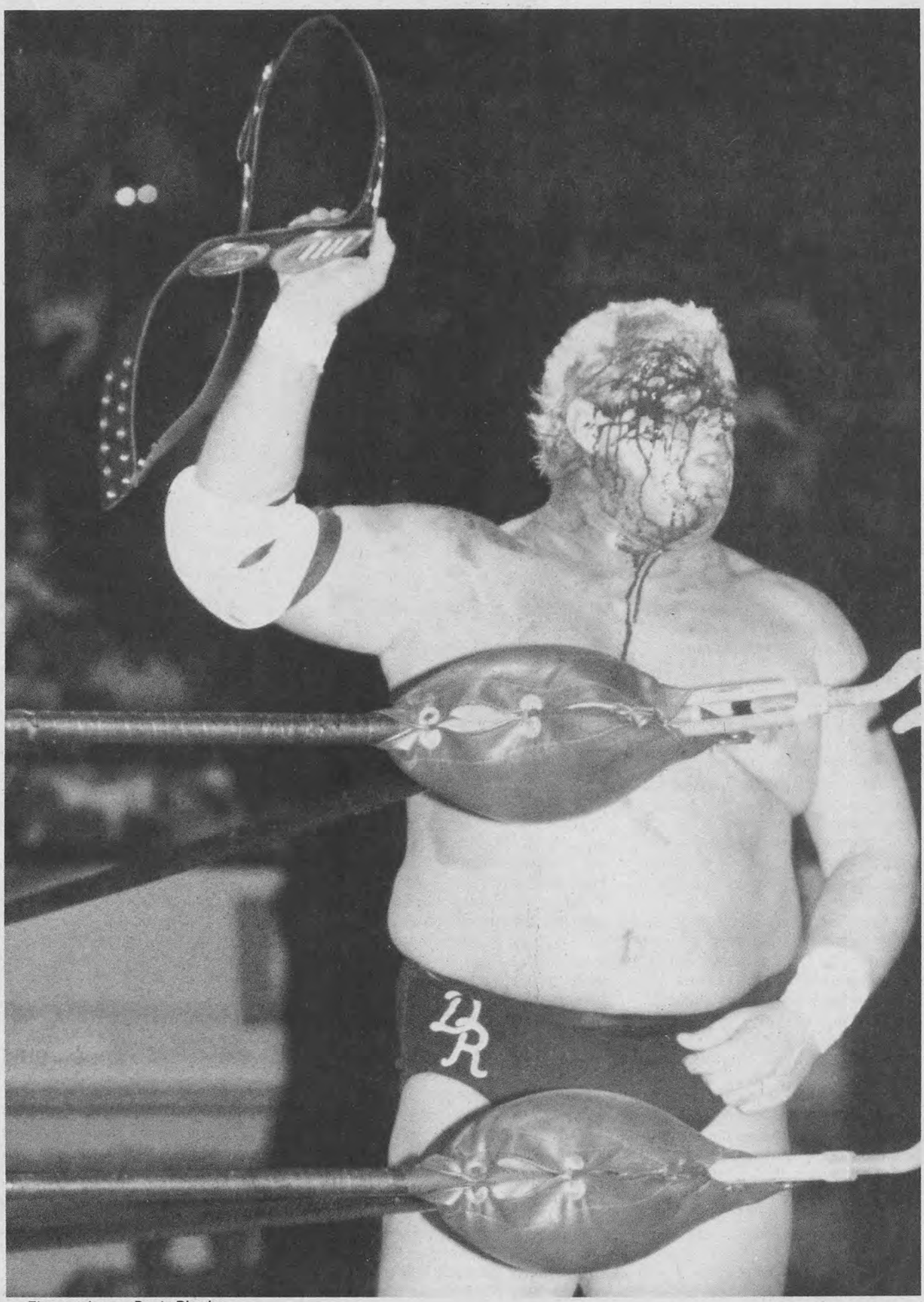
The charisma is still as powerful as ever. An undying will to take on the toughest opponents continues to flourish. However, in sports most noticeably, more often than not an athlete begins getting hints to retire from active competition when the body is unable to perform up to the mind's expectations. Pure and simple. When a wrestler begins to slow down in his or her ring work, admitting their time in the spotlight is over and that it's time to step aside for the promising rookies, it is without a doubt a tough decision to own up to. Dusty Rhodes, the self-proclaimed "American Dream", is perhaps the best example in professional wrestling today at not knowing when to call it "quits".

For almost twenty years, Rhodes gave a first class effort to promote professional wrestling. Now closing in on his fiftieth birthday, during his matches the native of Austin, Texas displays a quarter of the talent he once showed in the early part of his career that led him into becoming a household name. With stars such as "Hotstuff" Eddie Gilbert, Brad Armstrong and Tim Horner on the National Wrestling Alliance roster of wrestlers, at the expense of stagnating and possibly even terminating their promising future on the mat circuits, an obviously out of shape and overweight fading superstar refuses to give up the reins to the next generation.

Without hesitation, it has been a career of many highlights and one that would be difficult to match by many of today's headliners. When Dusty began his career as a grappler after an impressive tenure at West Texas State, you just knew he would eventually make it to the top of his craft. Surrounded by the Funk family, Dory, Sr., Dory, Jr. and Terry, their world championship experiences rubbed off on Rhodes. In fact, years later, most recently two years ago, the big Texan captured the NWA Heavyweight Championship for the third time.

In the early years in his home state and then onto the American Wrestling Association, along with "Dirty" Dick Murdoch, Rhodes and his partner ruled tag team competition known as "The Outlaws". Crusher Lisowski, Dick the Bruiser, Wahoo McDaniel, a young Ken Patera and Verne Gagne, all teaming up with each other, were the recipients of beatings and other vicious acts of violence they are still reminded of when ever "The Outlaws" are mentioned. Rhodes and Murdoch steamrolled their way to many tag championships.

Being the son of a plumber and raised from a life of hardship and constant sacrificing, Rhodes hailed himself as the "American Dream". Coming from a relatively poor background and moving into a lifestyle of the rich, Rhodes saw himself as the ultimate role model for the disadvantaged to look up to. Whether or not the goal of



The rough one, Dusty Rhodes.

Dusty's to be the ultimate successful underdog and hero is still open for debate. Throughout his career, for the amount of talent he showed off, the hype to get him over as a winner in the fans eyes was twice as much. Dusty's talents were obvious but not enough to paint a clear picture of an accomplished wrestler.

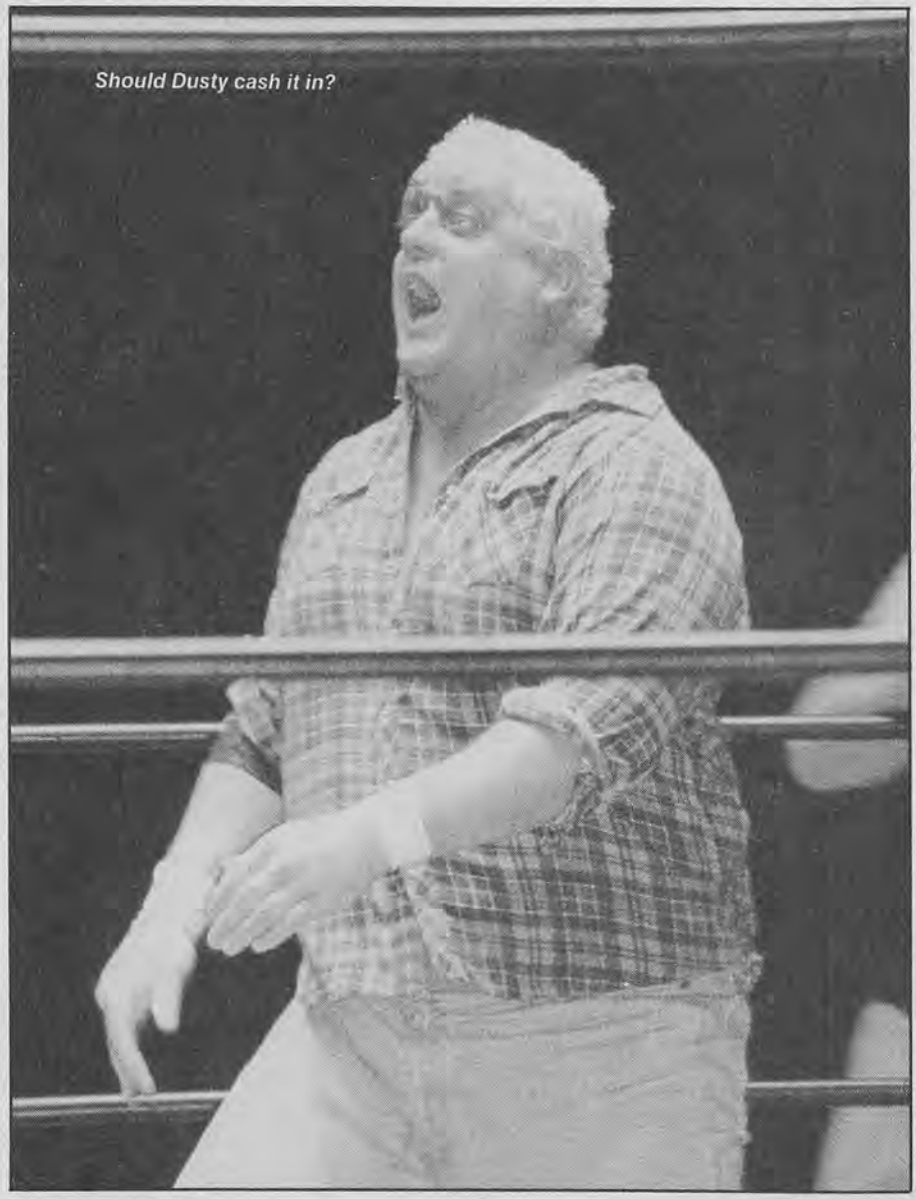
Tours overseas didn't materialize as hoped for. Mainly a brawler, in Japan wrestling ability is what separates the "men from the boys". Although able to compete on the level of Giant Baba and Antonio Inoki, easily outmatched in their encounters, sad to say, Dusty was delegated into being one of "the boys".

Before Dusty's career peaked five years ago upon signing on with Jim Crockett Promotions, a major promotional force of the NWA based in Charlotte, North Carolina, he enjoyed a modest success ratio in the World Wide Wrestling Federation. From Texas Bullrope to Texas Death Matches, Rhodes couldn't dethrone then WWWF Champ "Superstar" Billy Graham. It was upon his departure of the WWWF when Rhodes found his place in the sport to which he had dedicated much of his life to.

In the Mid-Atlantic region, under the Crockett banner, Dusty captured every significant singles and tag title that were up for grabs. Once the promotion secured its weekly television show on a cable network with the potential audience of viewers reaching in the millions, it appeared this was the turning point and slide downward of Dusty's career.

A subdued ego went berserk. It's as if it weren't enough to title yourself a dream, Rhodes began claiming he was THE legend of wrestling. It appears the names of Lou Thesz, Pat O'Connor, "Killer" Kowalski and Buddy Rogers aren't familiar to a forgetful Rhodes. Whatever physique and repertoire of holds he once showed off in the ring was long gone. During the past few years, Rhodes has deteriorated in ring savvy to the extent of chants, "boring, boring" heard as he heads down the arena aisles, and those are the polite observations directed towards him before his matches get underway.

By all accounts, the faded "Dream" talks up a meaner battle than he displays in the ring. On any given wrestling program aired by The Wrestling Network, a Crockett subsidiary, you can view Rhodes boasting and making praise about his favorite topic—himself. Due to all the TV time alotted to himself, on a network which he serves as the senior producer, there is at times not even enough air time left for the NWA World Champion Ric Flair to speak of his travels.


Should Dusty cash it in?

If you were to examine the length of any given Rhodes match, except for a select few, you would note that Dusty has trouble lasting more than five minutes with an opponent. Gasping for air at an almost alarming rate, the rundown Rhodes is a prime candidate for retirement. The "American Dream's" ability to put "fannies in the seats" is long gone. The once muscular legs and upper torso disappeared years ago. The memories of his greatest matches are still present but disappearing quickly to fresh thoughts of an obese has-been.

It seems Dusty Rhodes' toughest opponent today is himself. Each match he gallantly tries his best at fails to thrill an ever dwindling legion of fans. If Big Dust continues to wrestle, he won't go out in a blaze of glory but as a has-been that many won't remember was a somebody once. Seeing Rhodes perform well below the level he once did, it's clear Dusty is well overrated, especially by himself, and should rest on his laurels that once made him a major attraction across the United States. Perhaps the blame for the continuous push of Rhodes into main events can also be pointed at the booker and matchmaker of the NWA.

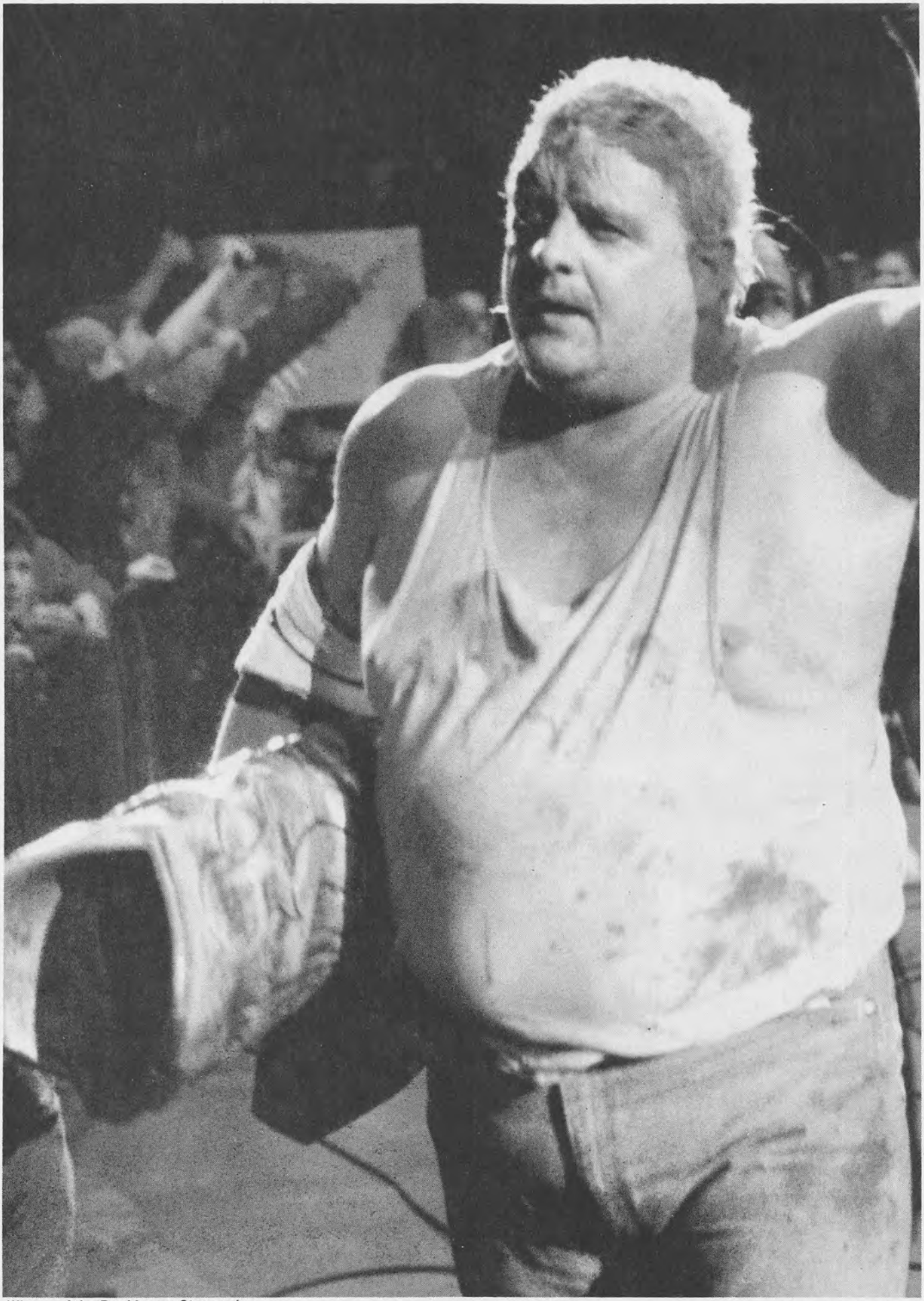


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PHOTO BY CARL CARGO

SGT SLAUGHTER

SLICK

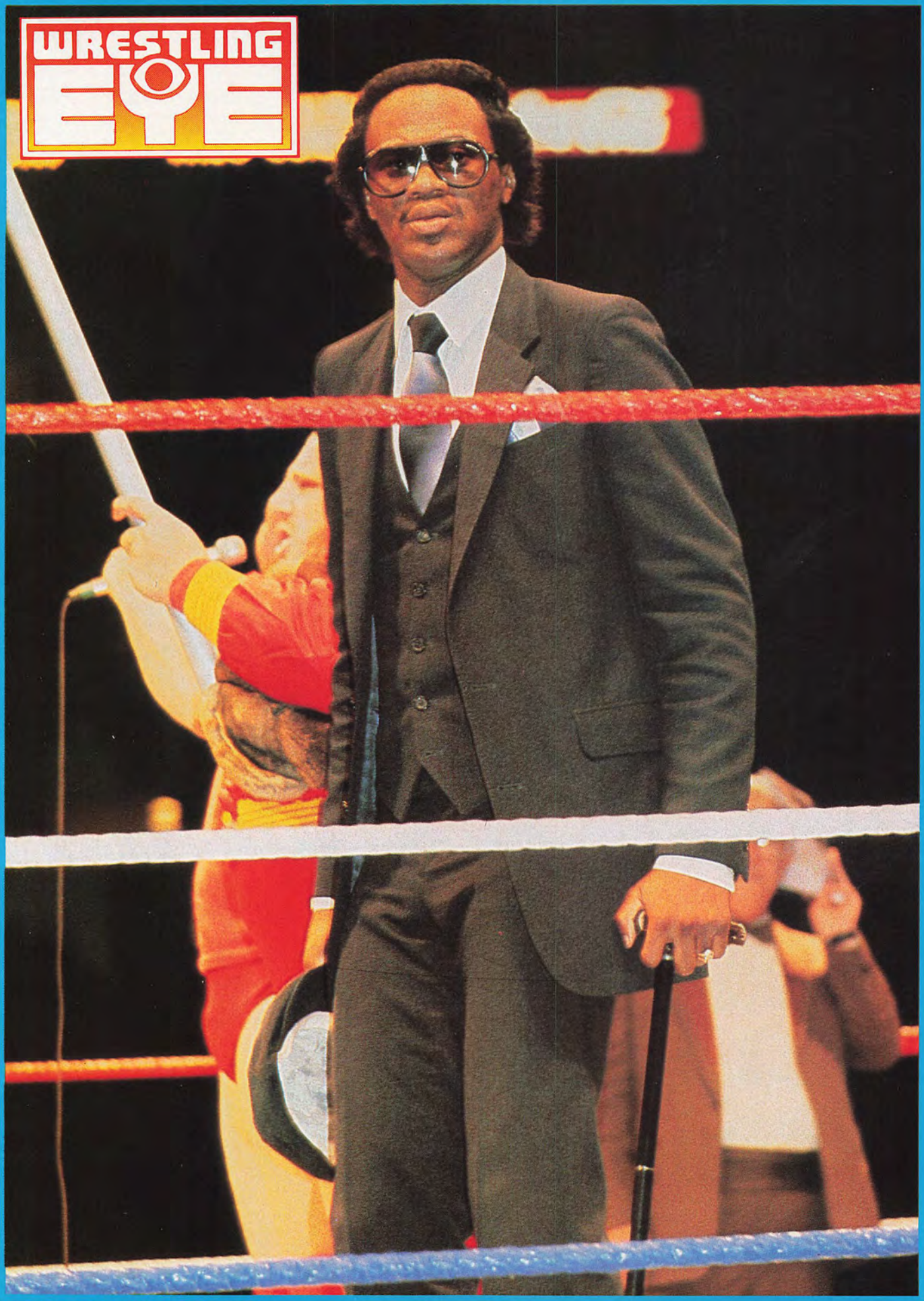
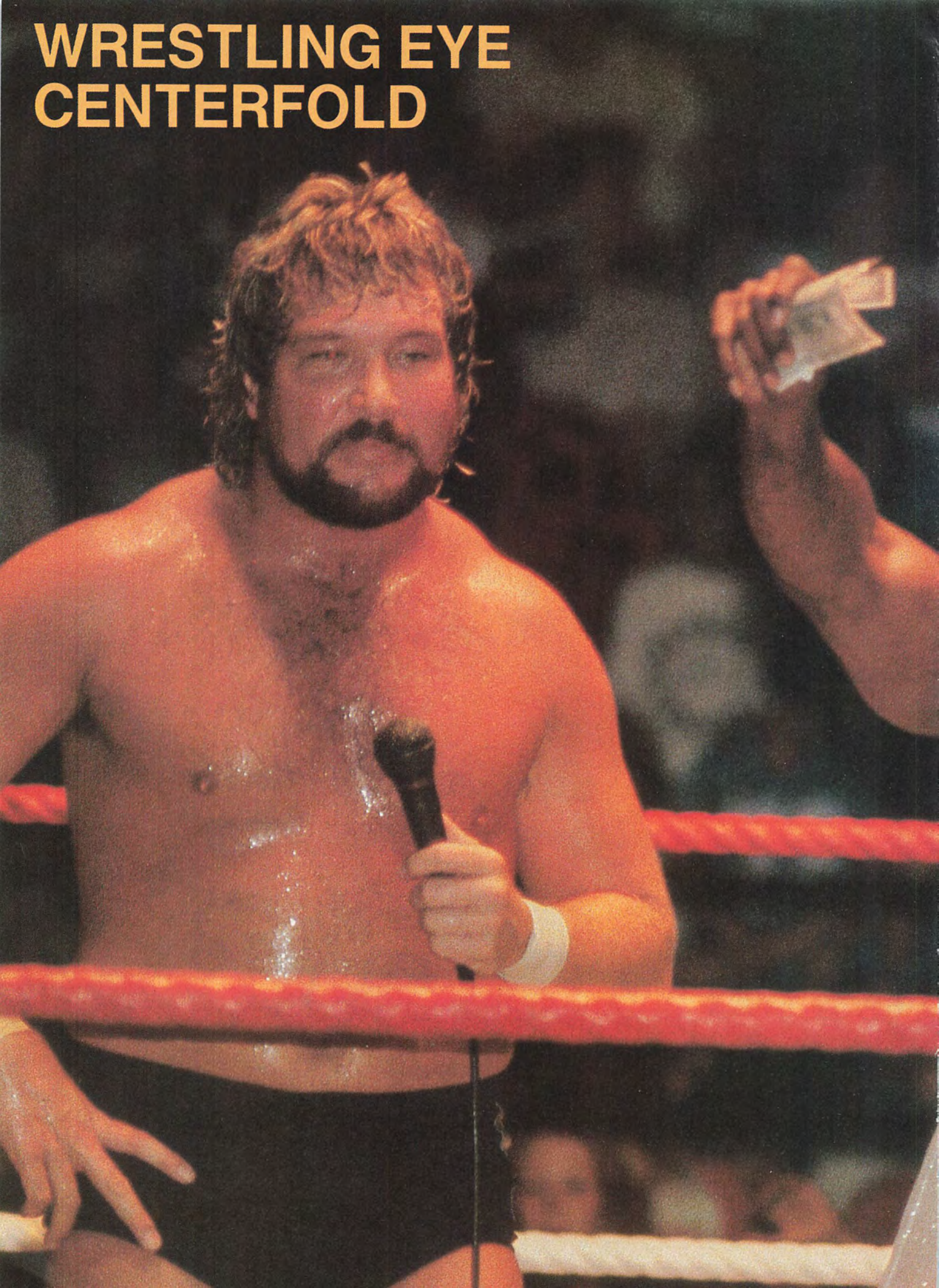
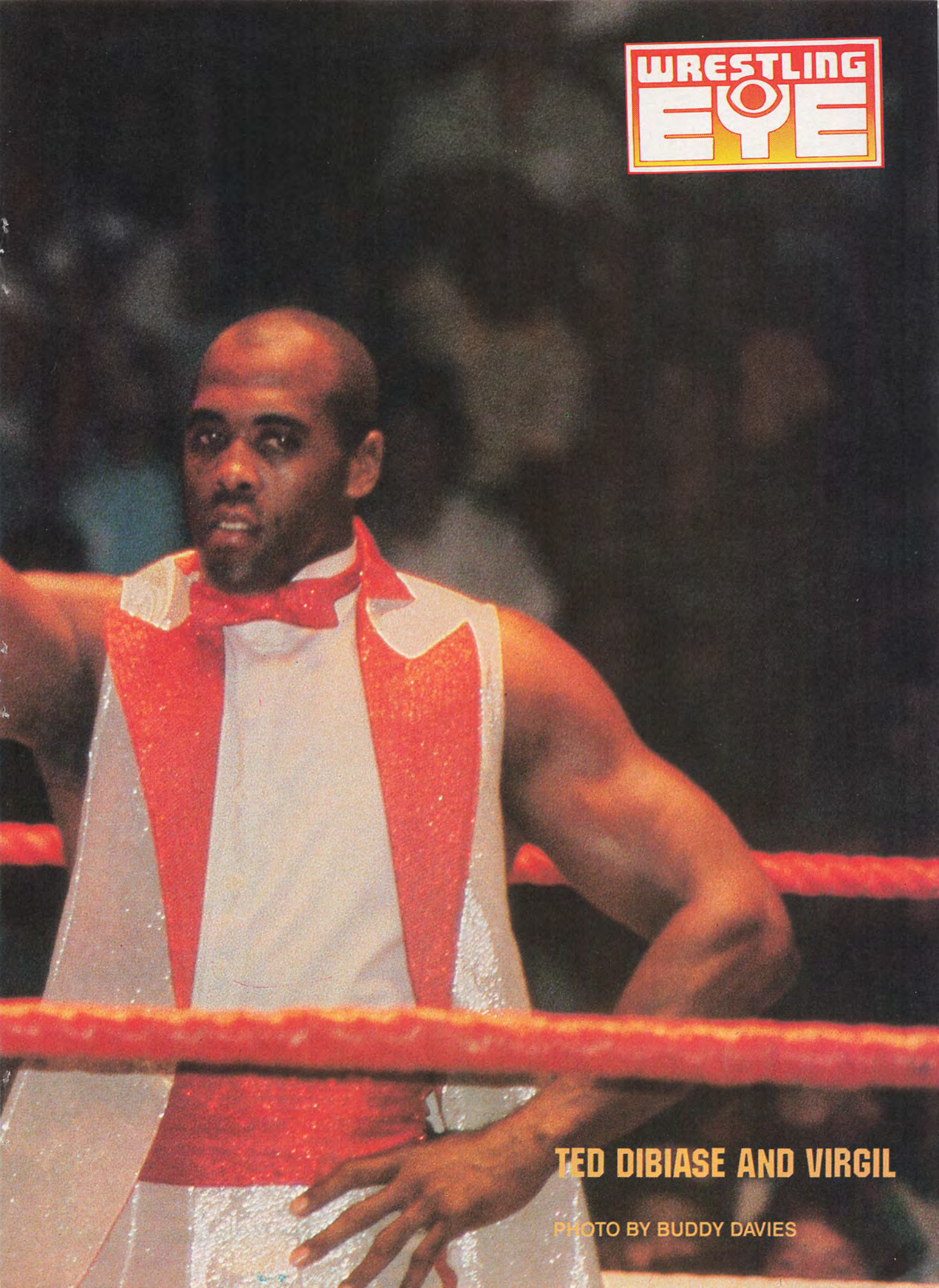


PHOTO BY LINDA MOORE

WRESTLING EYE CENTERFOLD





TED DIBIASE AND VIRGIL

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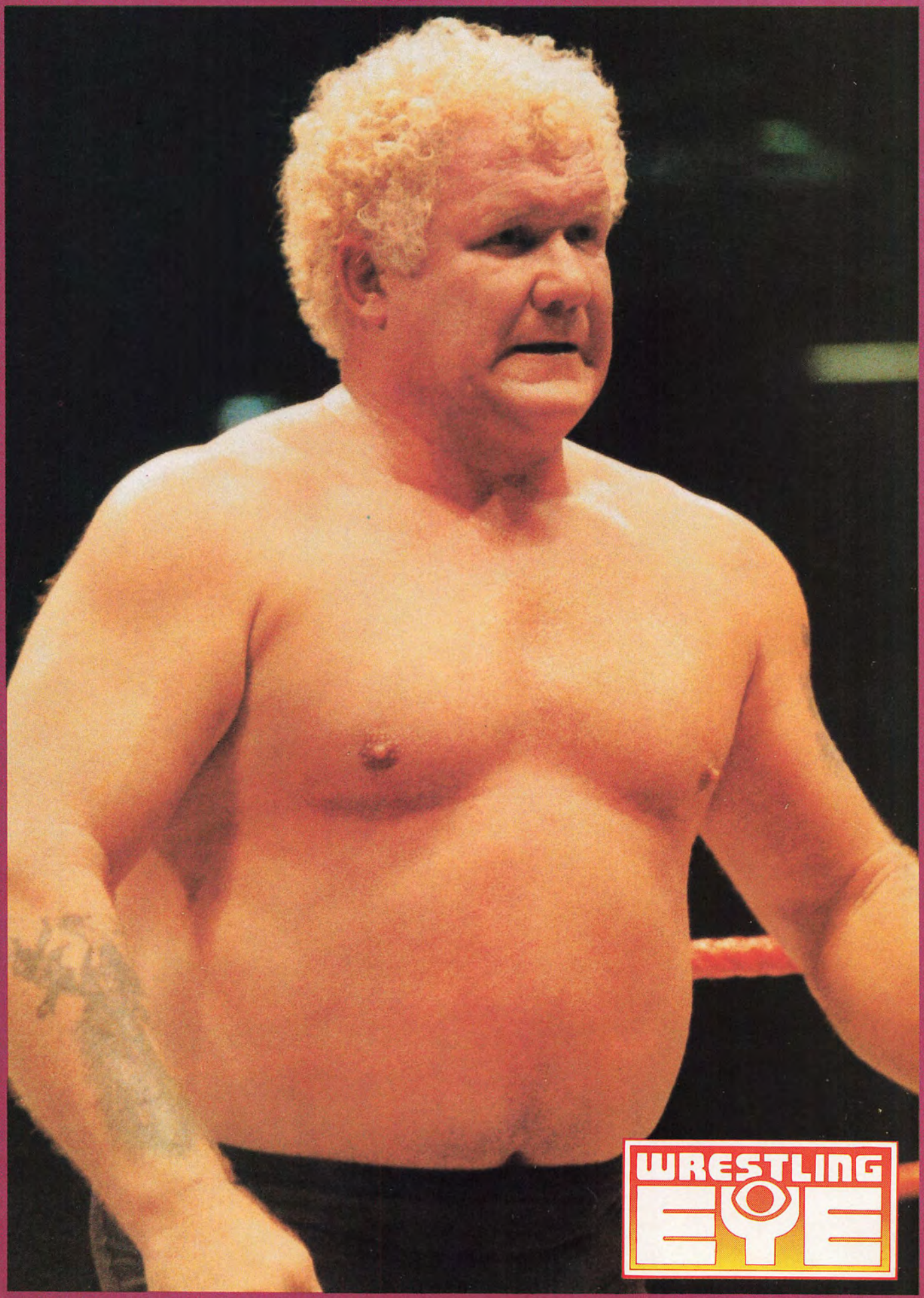
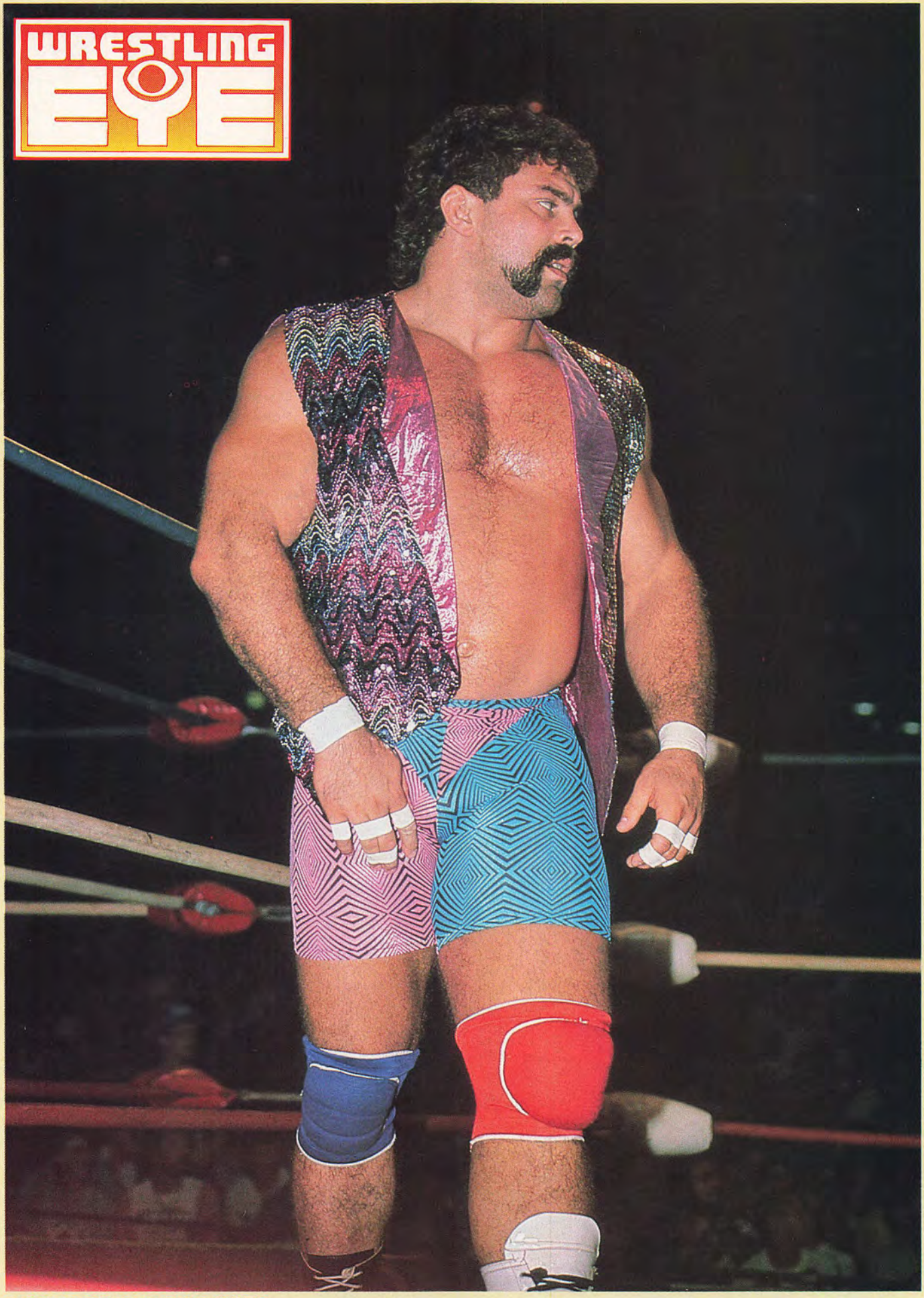
HARLEY RACE



RICK STEINER



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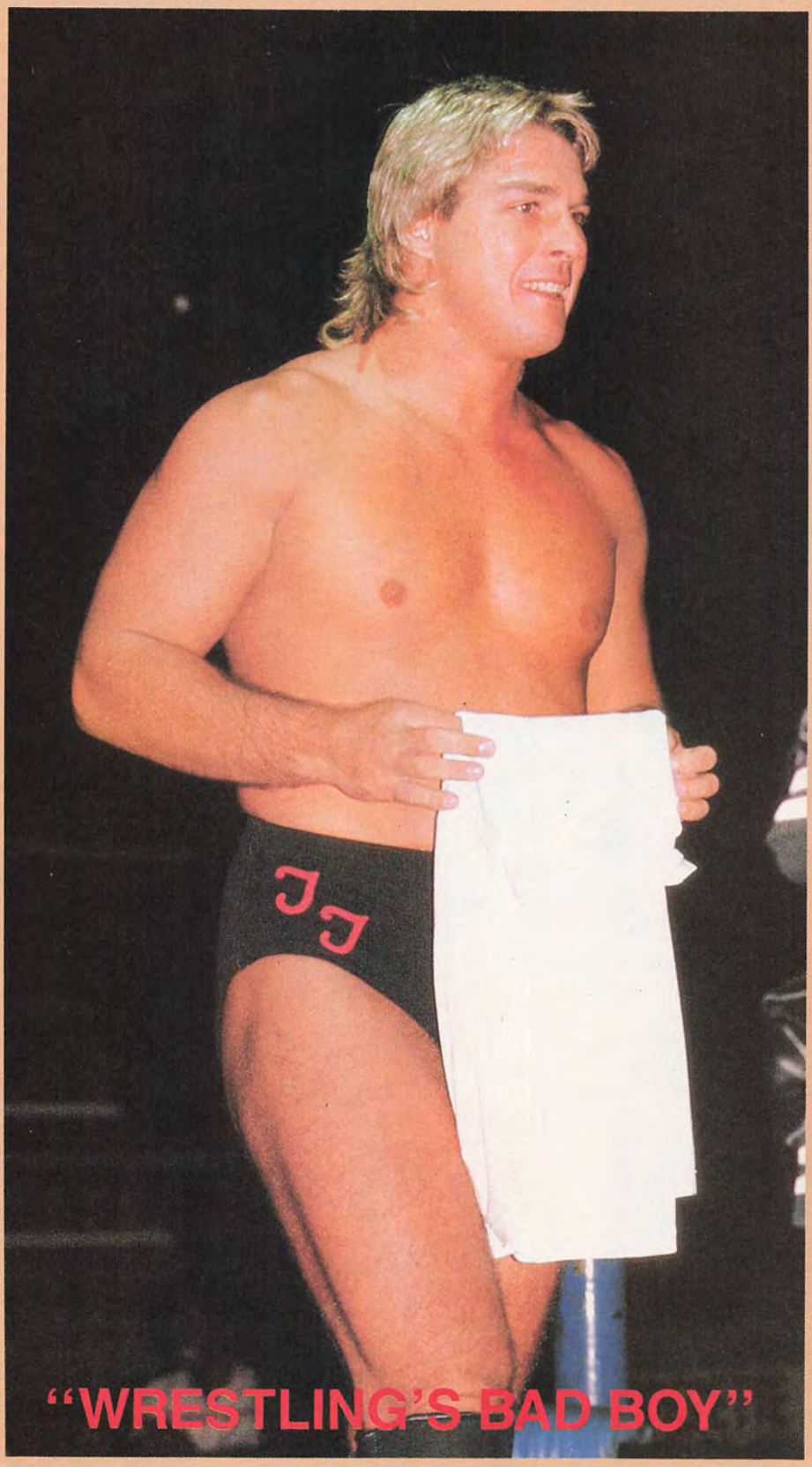
TERRY TAYLOR

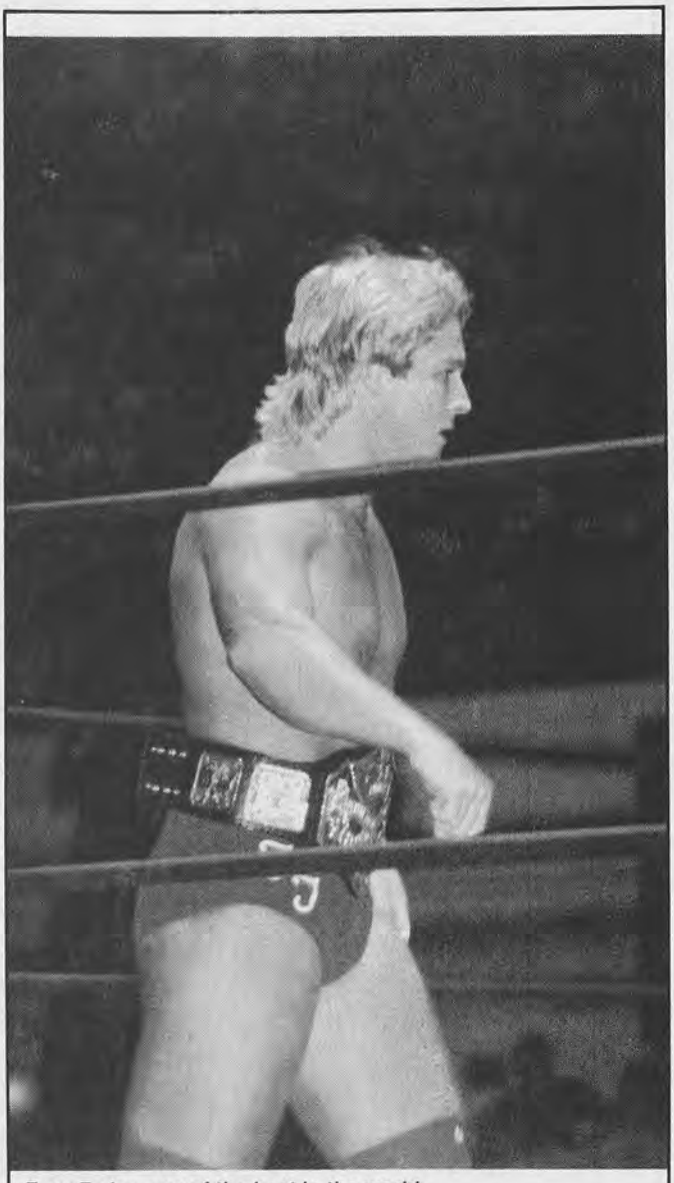


By Don Liable

Don't let his handsome features mislead you into trusting him. That should be the furthest thing on anyone's mind, just ask his previous opponents. Behind the well dressed, well groomed, honest looking "boy next door" is a sadistic, unscrupulous wrestling machine that will stop at nothing for personal achievement. Terry Taylor, of Vero Beach, Florida, has left a trail of destruction and deceit in every major promotion throughout North America. However, as much as Taylor is despised by the fans, he continues to add to his collection of championship belts. Why would a young man with an obviously bright and promising career in wrestling display a lack of respect for all aspects of the sport? The sad part of the Terry Taylor saga is his abundance of athletic ability perhaps doesn't receive the proper recognition as due him, mainly because of his total disrespect of the rulebook. What was a chorus of cheers has now turned to jeers.

When Taylor first joined the professional ranks, his amateur background sprang him into main events quickly. His climbing the ladder of success brought Taylor quite a bit of national exposure. Within his first six months as a touring pro there were more pictures and tee-shirts sold in arenas throughout Florida of him than any other personality. Terry Taylor was now a star. 'I remember when he was first signed up by Championship Wrestling of Florida. Most of the wrestlers had heard about him in the sports pages due to his winning performances on the high school wrestling scene. Never did I, or any of the other pros that I spoke with imagine, that Terry would learn and excel at such a rapid pace. He knew he was talented and I feel his attitude downfall began when he started to read his clippings too much', former Na-

Terry Taylor of Vero Beach, Florida.



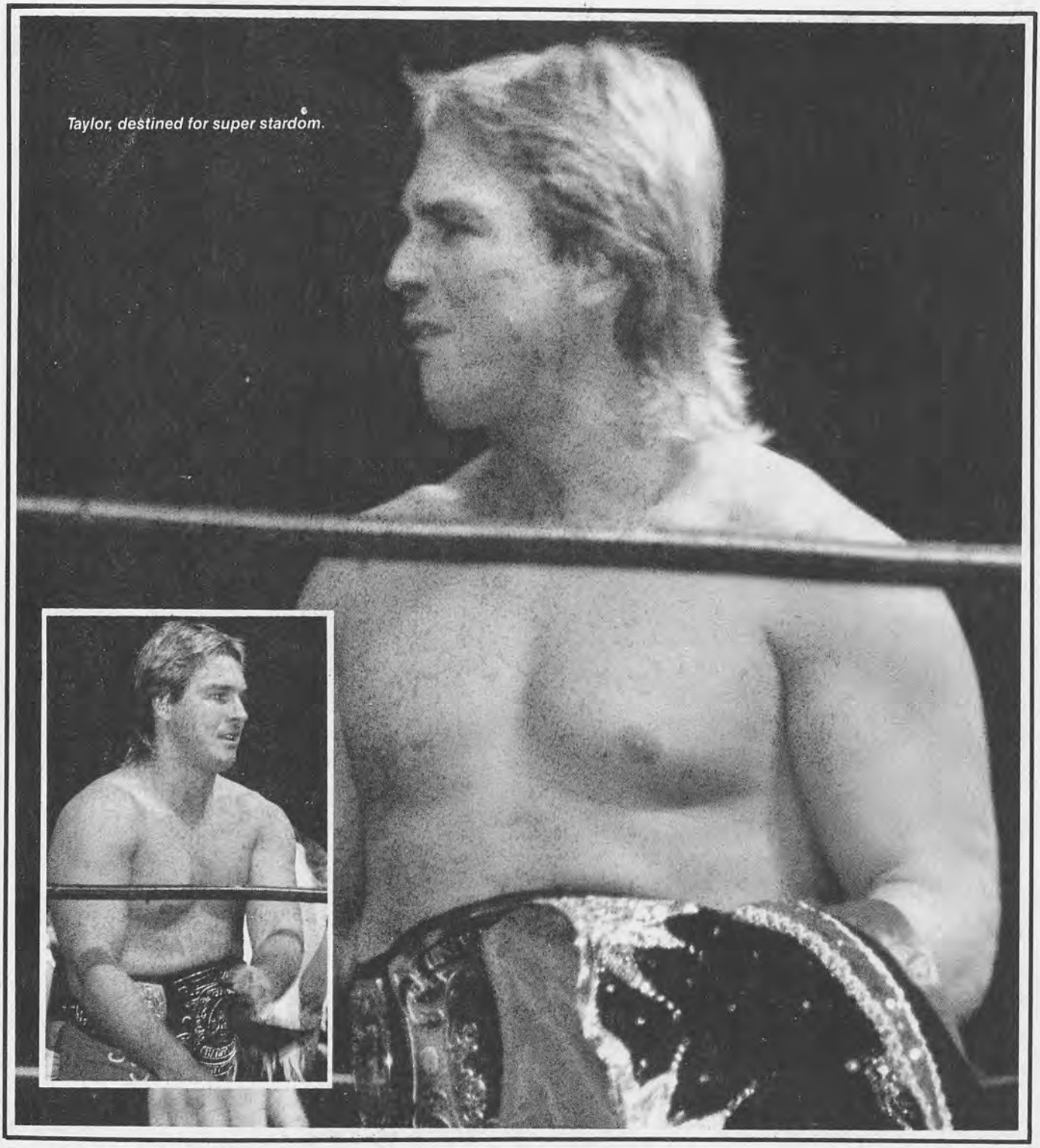
Terry Taylor, one of the best in the world.

tional Wrestling Alliance Jr. Heavyweight Champion Mike Graham said while on a recent trip to New Jersey. Taylor had the Southern and Florida State titles strapped around his waist within an amazing eighteen months as a pro. When reflecting, Terry certainly makes a good case for having too much too fast.

From his home turf, Terry strutted out of the "Sunshine" state for the much heralded Georgia Championship Wrestling promotions based in Atlanta. Granted, the talent was some of the best in the country, Ole Anderson, Stan Hansen, Ric Flair, Roddy Piper, but there was another reason as to why Taylor and his ever enlarging ego set up shop in Atlanta. National television exposure. The promotion's weekly televised program was beamed nationwide on the Superstation WTBS. Millions of fans tuned in.

At first, it appeared as if Taylor would behave himself in the ring. But, never comfortable being just one of the boys, Terry began demanding a shot at the National Heavyweight Title. Still on the sincere side of the fans, and to build up a lucrative live gate at the Omni Arena, along with his winning record, a championship match was granted. Some fellow wrestlers saw the situation as a power struggle between Terry and the promoters, which didn't sit too well. 'When I was fortunate enough to win that belt from The Spoiler in Marietta, Ga., it came due to a lot of hard work and a rankings position that I earned. I didn't go to the promotion's office, stomp my feet and act like a spoiled brat, demanding it. Terry has always had an abundance of talent, it's too bad he is so aware of it', Bob Armstrong recalled.

Atlanta proved, just as he hoped for, to be Taylor's launching pad to international wrestling prominence. While in the "Peach State", Terry saw much of his wrestling idol—the "Nature Boy": Ric Flair, the NWA World Heavyweight Wrestling Champion. Many ring experts today feel Taylor indeed attempts to duplicate Flair's every move and mannerism in and out of the ring. Expensive three piece suits, custom made shoes and flashing large denominations of money in full public view have raised the issue of Taylor attempting to be a clone of the champ. Flair has never been known as a humble or mod-



Taylor, destined for super stardom.

est man. Cocky, aggressive, smug, they all paint a clear picture of Flair's public approach to the sport of wrestling. Unfortunately, those adjectives resemble the personna of Terry Taylor.

After faring quite well for himself and gaining huge amounts of media attention, Terry moved on to a new promotion, a new challenge. Mid-South Wrestling overseen by Cowboy Bill Watts covered Oklahoma, Louisiana, Texas and Mississippi. Upon Taylor's entrance into the fledging group, it seemed as if he had turned over a new leaf. The smugness was not evident. Taylor went by the rules and was being cheered by his ever growing legion of fans. Further more, Terry finally seemed to be enjoying his public acceptance. Along with Magnum Terry Allen, Taylor finally received his long awaited wish to be the "top banana" in a major wrestling league. Kamala, Mr. Olympia, Jim Duggan and yes, the Million Dollar Man himself—Ted DiBiase all went down in defeat to the Vero Beach native. Life couldn't have been more rosier for Terry Taylor at that point. When Magnum TA accepted an offer with Jim Crockett Promotions, Terry was the one athlete's name everyone along the Mid-South circuit knew.

With the future of the Mid-South organization looking bright, there was talk of the group expanding nationally. A cable company began airing the Mid-South tapes

throughout the country. With the interest present, Mid-South became the Universal Wrestling Federation. Terry Taylor was a major reason as to why the UWF began to present matches from coast to coast. His ring ability and now likeable personality brought the fans, especially the young ladies by the droves into arenas. Enter "Hotstuff" Eddie Gilbert and Missy Hyatt. Known as "Hotstuff and Hyatt International", these two proven troublemakers somehow convinced the repented Taylor to join up with the wrestling family they were forming. With money and promises of power, both of which have proven in the past to be downfalls of Taylor's, persuaded Terry to go back to his "anything for a dollar" attitude.

Taylor and Gilbert for almost a year did as they pleased in the UWF, and then in the NWA as well. Just before Terry's exit from the UWF/NWA promotions for wrestling action in the Memphis, Tennessee area, perhaps Taylor was put in his place for the first time in his career. Holding the UWF Television Championship, Terry challenged then NWA TV Champ Nikita Koloff in a winner-take-all title match in Chicago on the highly publicized "STARRCADE" night of wrestling presented by the NWA.

Much smaller in size and apparently in heart, Taylor appeared to have written off this match as a victory before it ever took place. Needless to say, it's history now, the big Russian left the ring carrying two belts. Whether he was embarrassed or afraid to show his face in public and accept a loss, like any other athlete, Taylor's best defense was to run and hide. Goodbye UWF and NWA, hello Memphis; look out Jerry "The King" Lawler. Currently, Terry splits bookings with the Jarrett Promotions in Tennessee and with World Class Championship Wrestling, under the leadership of Ken Mantel, in Dallas, Texas.

After seeing Terry Taylor wrestle, you can't help not root for him. You have to believe that one day he will turn his attitude around for good, and when he does, you can bet department stores will be deluged with posters of him. Not only is Terry Taylor marketable, he's a gifted athlete. He deserves the fans approval, now he must earn it.

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SGT SLAUGHTER

WRESTLING THE AMERICAN WAY!

By Don Liable

Not everyone is fortunate to live out their childhood fantasy. From the time he first began watching television as a youngster, professional wrestling was his favorite programming. Getting hooked on the mat sport early on, Bob Slaughter didn't have to think twice about how he wanted to earn a living once reaching adulthood. There have been scores of heroes to hit the wrestling world in the past decades. Perhaps the best definition of a hero is a patriot. Who better to fill that role for the young and old to look up to with respect and admiration than America's Heavyweight Champion Sergeant Slaughter. Although Slaughter enjoyed a decorative career in the United States Marines for a number of years, it was when he went into wrestling on a full-time basis that the Sarge revealed his finest talents of being a skillful, competitive athlete.

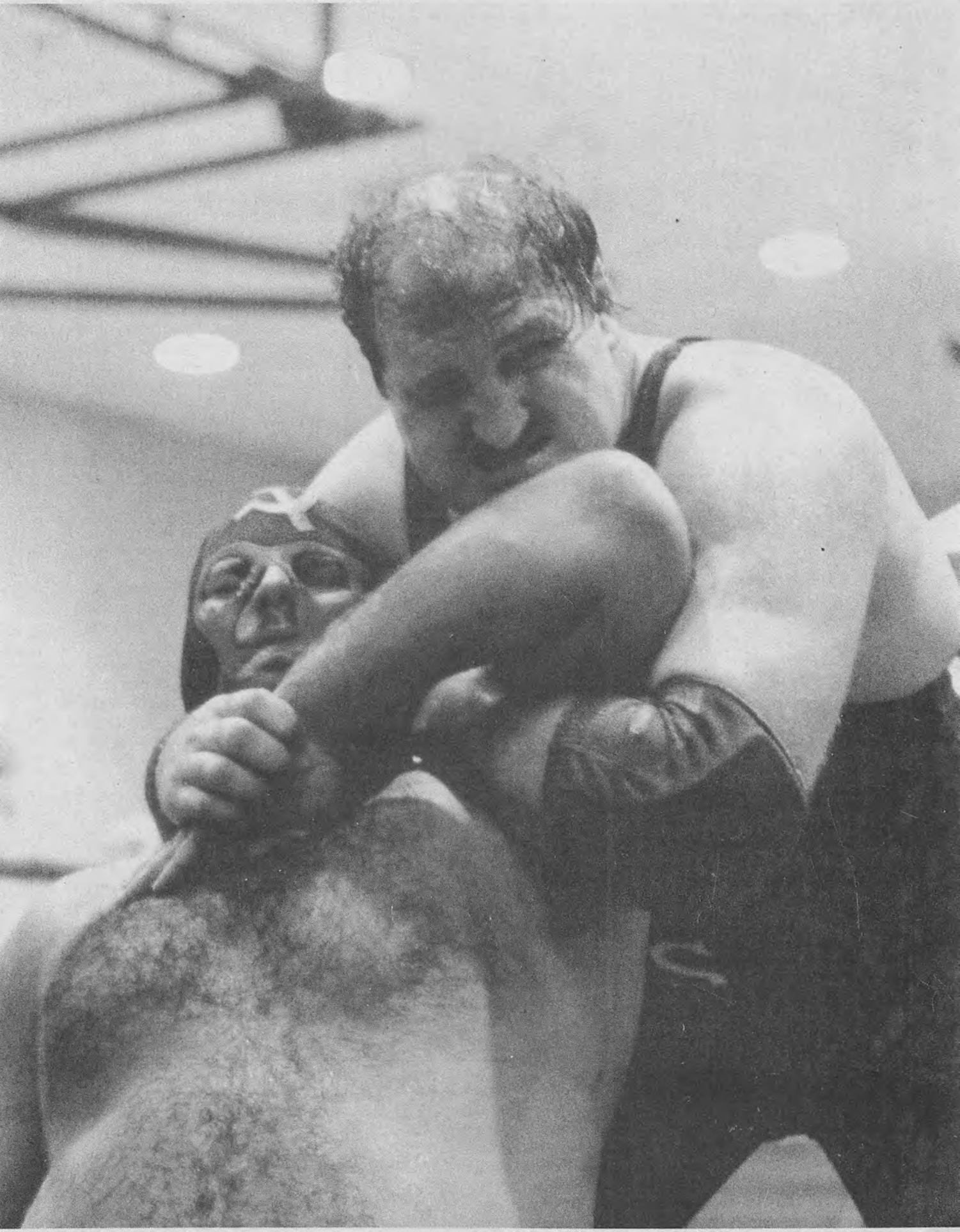
"I sure was", said Slaughter when asked if he was one of the most devoted fans to the grappling game as a youth. Some of the Sarge's more favorite ring personalities were Mad Dog Vachon, Verne Gagne, Freddie Blassie and Bruno Sammartino. While reminiscing, Slaughter also spoke highly of Haystack Calhoun. "He weighed 600 lbs. but many people never gave the big country boy the credit of being an athlete. I saw him run across the ring on several occasions and get knocked on his back and quickly get up off the canvas. Calhoun was very much a wrestler and not a freak, as some ignorant fans have labeled him", said Slaughter before a match in Springfield, Massachusetts.

While many people see the Sarge travel in his custom made camouflage colored limousine, the early years weren't as first class for him. When Slaughter was a rookie some fifteen years ago, he experienced some tough days on the road and even more brutal nights in the ring. "Sometimes I traveled to the wrestling shows and made less money wrestling than it cost me to get to the matches. Fortunately for me, one day things seemed to turn around for my career. However, those are the days that are most important to me because I realized just what was ahead for me if I worked hard", Slaughter stated sincerely. During his rookie campaign as a pro, when on military leave and on weekends, the Sarge saw mat duty in the Central States region. Long time Kansas star Bob Geigel was influential in teaching Slaughter the 'ropes' of the sport. The duo enjoyed a fair amount of tag team success.

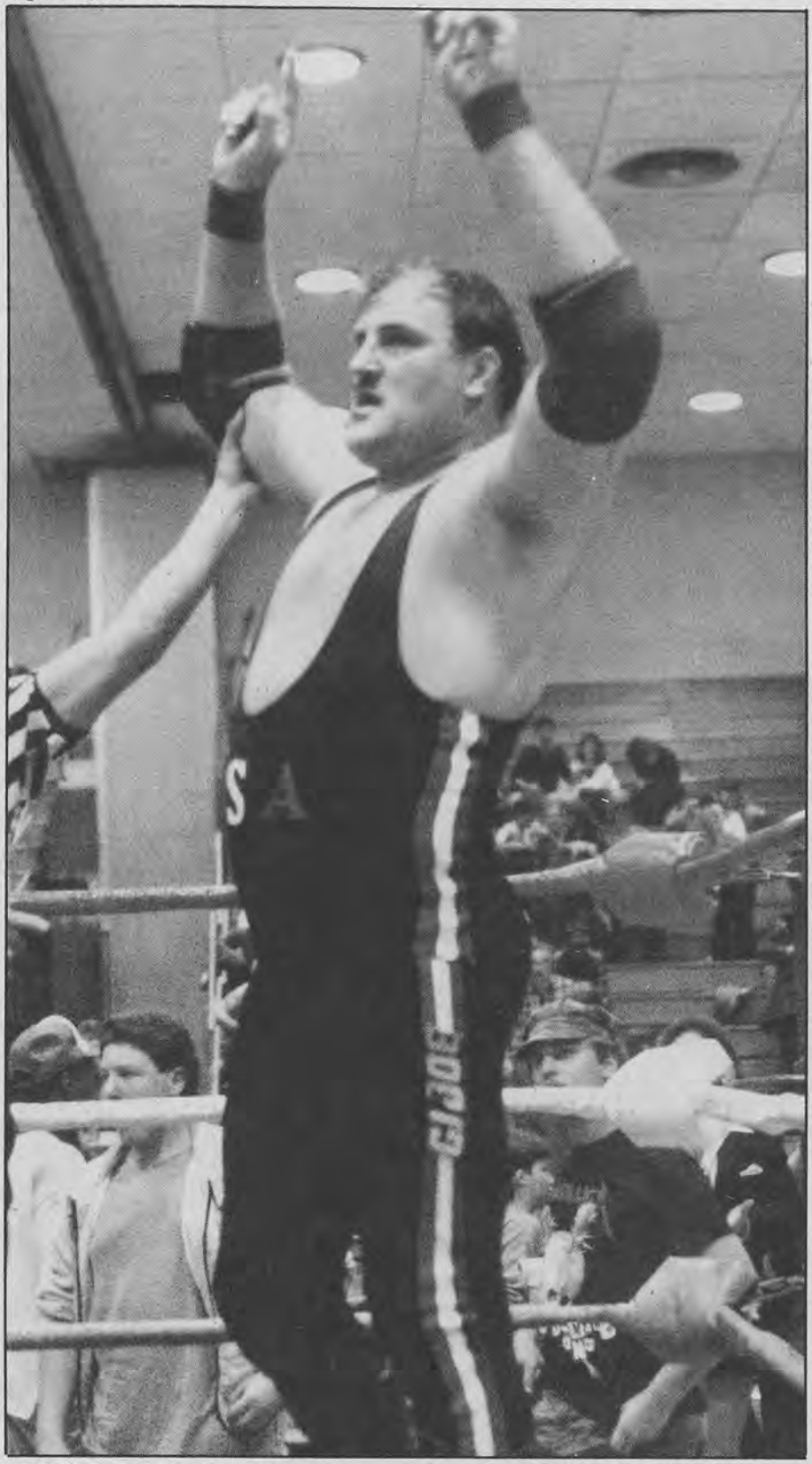
With many matches behind him, Slaughter declares his victory over the Iron Sheik in their 'boot camp' match in New York's Madison Square Garden as his most memorable achievement in his wrestling career. "I have never enjoyed winning a match more than that one. That encounter with Iran's finest, to me, was what the Joe Louis-Max Schmelling boxing re-match was to the world during the World War II era. When the Sheik was a bloodied mess and unable to continue, I felt I scored a victory for America", a smiling Sarge said. Another big moment for Slaughter was the night he won the America's title from Larry Zbysko. Several title belts have found their way around his waist but none have brought more pride to Slaughter than the championship which is recognized nationwide.

When confronted as to some of the people who have been instrumental in furthering his wrestling career, Slaughter, without hesitation brings up his former manager the late Grand Wizard. "He was the best, no doubt about that. He was always there at ringside when I needed him. Although he never got involved in a match and never interfered, perhaps his most important role to me when he handled my career was that of a scout. The Wizard would report to me weaknesses of my upcoming opponents. During a match he would come over to me with suggestions on various maneuvers I should try. Most of the time he was right. I'd say he was 99% correct on all his advice to me. I became very successful under the Wizard's management. He died of a heart attack in 1984. I miss him. I called him the 'General'. I still feel the Wizard is somewhere around watching over me", recalled Slaughter.

Slaughter executes a cobra clutch on the Mad F ussian.



Sgt Slaughter is still number 1.



Perhaps the most questioned chapter during the Sarge's career is when, early on in his career, with the American Wrestling Association while managed by Lord Alfred Hayes, he wore a mask and was billed as the Super Destroyer Mark II. Up until now, the mask was a private matter and a topic not to be discussed. After several years of superstardom under his own name, Slaughter has opened up about that mysterious period of his wrestling days. "I had gotten injured and quit wrestling for a while. I wanted to keep my identity a secret until I could get back into the ring shape that I wanted to be in. Mainly I wanted to see if I could handle the punishment. Once I had felt that I was back in the form before being injured, I brought the Sergeant gear back out of the locker. I wasn't real happy with my career at that time and I also didn't want to embarrass the Marine Corps", said the Sarge.

Without a doubt he is one of the most popular and recognizable figures ever to see action under the World Wrestling Federation banner, many hearts were broken and tears shed by children and fans of all ages when Slaughter was dismissed by the organization. In attempts to pacify the ticket buyers, a Slaughter imitation in the form of Corporal Kirchner was created. "Everybody has to make a living. Kirchner just happened to be the person the WWF picked to try to take my place. I don't think he was too successful for them. The Corporal wasn't that seasoned of a veteran to be wrestling in the WWF. That organization is strictly for the professionals. It's an honor to be copied and imitated. I looked at the situation not hoping that he'd fail but I knew that he would. After all, he was just a Corporal", a grinning Slaughter said.

Currently wrestling for several promotions, the Sarge has met some strange opponents. Abdullah the Butcher, Mad Dog Richard, and the Pink Assassin have all met the Sarge one on one in the ring. However, there are several men who Slaughter is hoping to match talents with in the near future. "Curt Hennig is a great young champion. He, perhaps more than anyone, is the one person with who I'd look forward to a match. I'll put my America's title up against his AWA strap anytime. Hulk Hogan, Ric Flair and Steve 'Dr. Death' Williams should all be willing to give me a shot at their world titles, although, I feel the America's title is worth more than their belts. I wrestled the number one names in the sport all over the country", Slaughter challenged.

There aren't too many certainties in life. In the case of Sergeant Bob Slaughter, values and dedication to the honest, hard working way have always been prevalent. A true giant in his field, professional wrestling has been a richer craft allowing the Sarge to participate.

AN INTERVIEW WITH TONY "HITMAN" STETSON

Tony and his manager "The Equalizer".

By Bobby Sanders

Before this interview was conducted, Tony "The Hit Man" Stetson and his manager "The Equalizer" both informed me that I could ask any questions that I wanted to and assured me that they would be brutally honest with their answers. It was immediately evident that they are not concerned with anyone's feelings and therefore would answer any and all questions with their true feelings regardless of who was hurt in the process.

The points of view contained in this interview are that of Tony Stetson and The Equalizer and in no way reflect the point of view of this magazine.

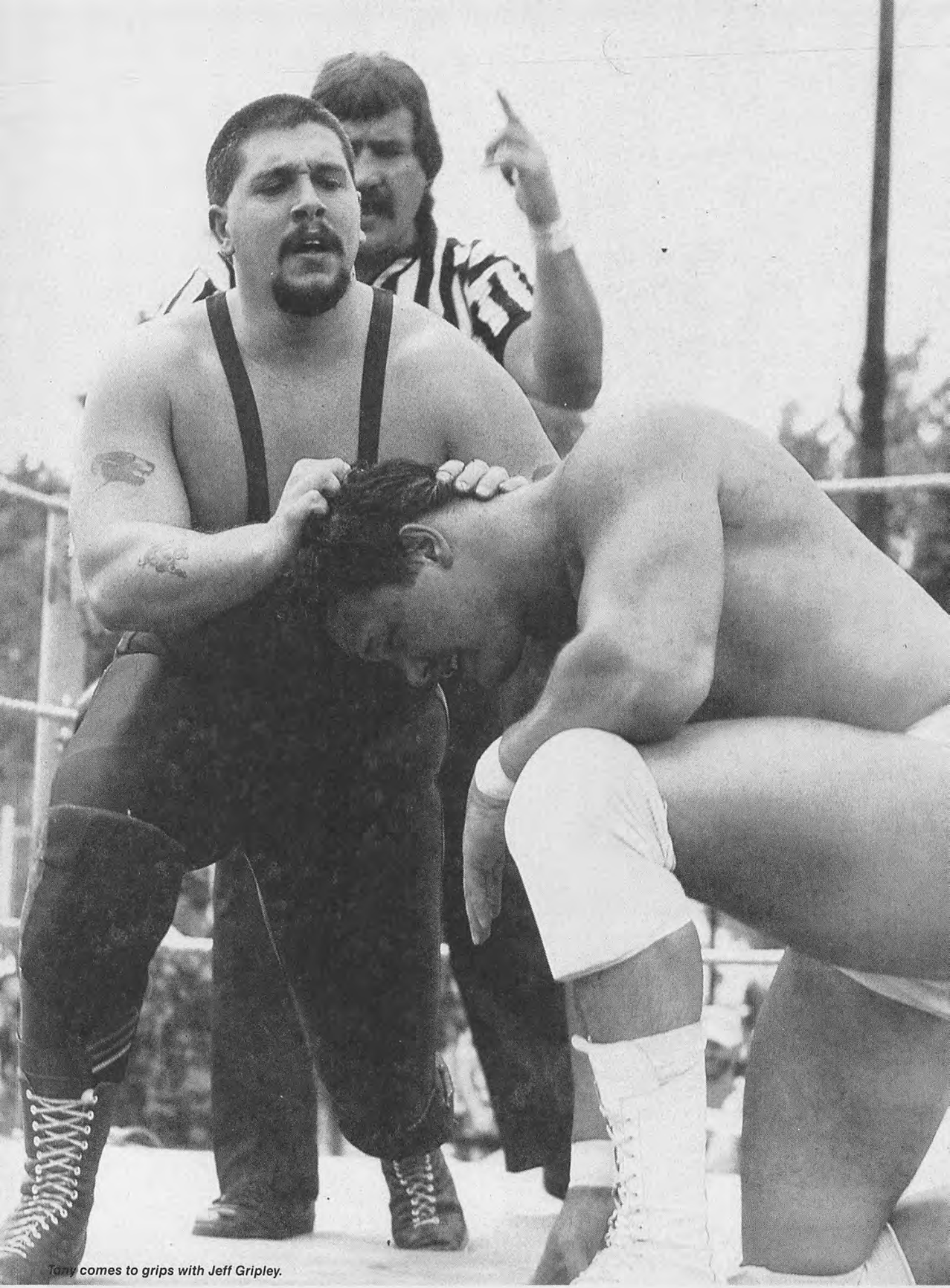
W.E. First of all, thank you for granting us this interview with the two of you.

EQU. You're quite welcome and I'm sure this is indeed a great honor for your magazine to speak with us.

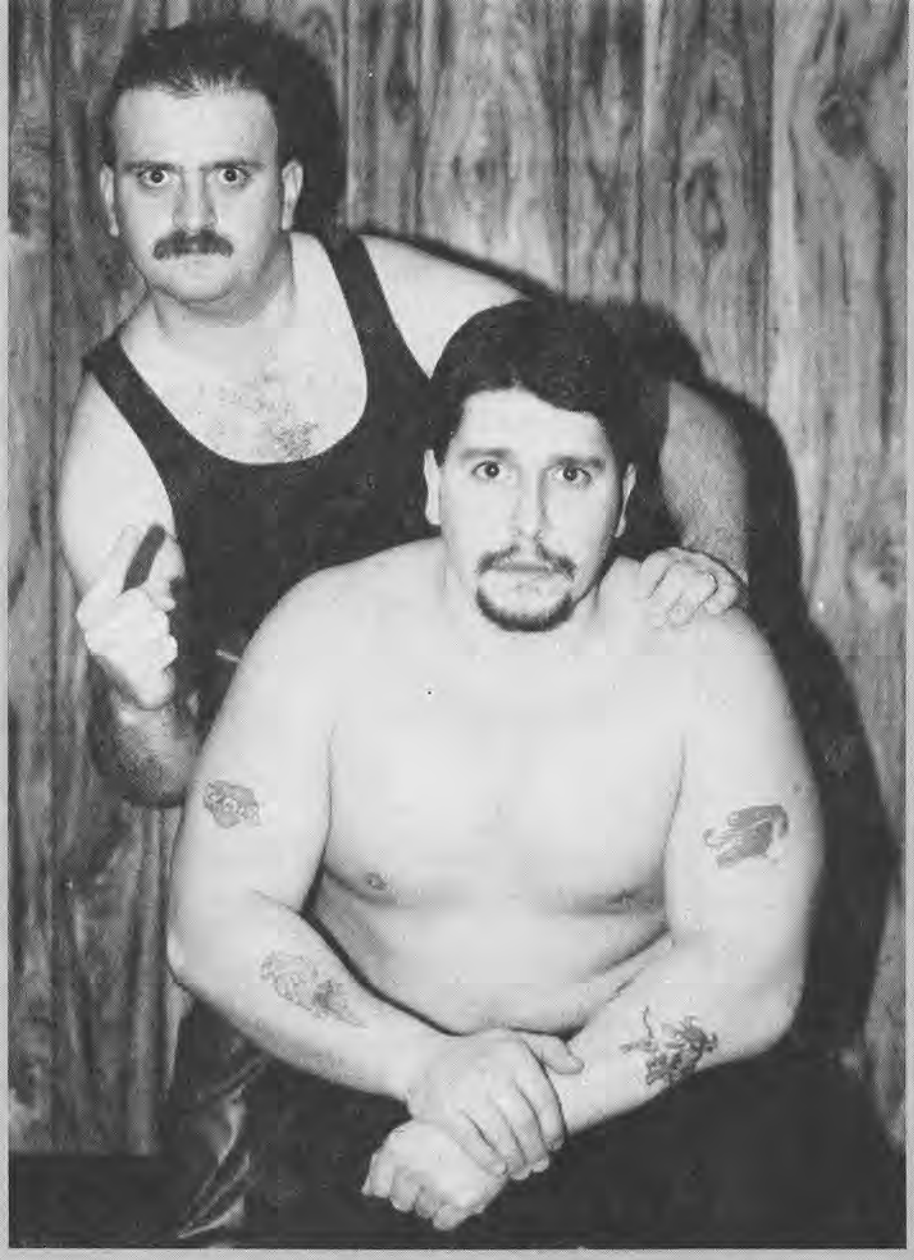
W.E. Well, Tony, let me ask you why you chose to become a professional wrestler?

T.S. I couldn't think of any better way to beat up on people and get paid to do it at the same time without going to jail.

W.E. Equalizer, when and why did



Tony comes to grips with Jeff Gripley.



Two bad boys from Philly, "The Hitman" and "The Equalizer".

you decide to manage Tony?
EQU. Tony and I grew up together on the bad streets of South Philly. We always watched out for each other and we still do today. So when Tony decided to become a professional wrestler, I decided to manage him. Plain and simple.
W.E. Tony, where are some of the areas you have wrestled in?
T.S. I have wrestled in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, The New England States, Puerto Rico, and throughout Europe.
W.E. What would you say was your biggest match to date?
T.S. It would have to be back in May of 1987 in North Carolina. I was in a Battle Royal with the winner earning a shot at Sgt. Slaughter and his "Americas" title. Some of the other wrestlers in the battle royal were: Domenic DeNucci, The MoonDogs, and Shane Douglas, just to name a few. Needless to say, I won and earned the shot at Slaughter. I came up short against him, but I'll tell you one thing; he knew if he had to face me again he might leave without his title.
W.E. Are the two of you associated with anyone else in professional wrestling?
EQU. As a matter of fact we are. We are associated with a beautiful young woman by the name of "Desire". She goes beyond the call of a Valet. When I'm away on business, Desire steps in to help keep "The Hit Man" in line. This is very important since he can be hard to control at times. She has really come through when we needed her.
W.E. Tony, in the past year do you think you have accomplished what you set out to do?
T.S. I always accomplish what I set out to do. But now I want to ask you a question. Even though I feel this is an exceptional magazine, I'm curious to know who rated the "Independent Rookie Of The Year" for 1987?
W.E. Just exactly what do you mean?
T.S. I mean Tom "Bambi" Brandi. I may not be the pretty boy he is, but good looks don't win matches. He avoids wrestling me whenever possible. I've requested matches against him in numerous occasions and it seems as though he goes running to the promoters trying to keep his pretty face in fact.
W.E. How would you suggest this situation be rectified?
T.S. I'll state here and now. This is the bottom line. Any time, any place. If he's willing to step into the ring with me, we'll see who the real "Bad Boy" from Philly is.
W.E. Equalizer, speaking of Philly, are the hometown fans behind the two of you?
EQU. I don't know and I don't care.
W.E. Well how about you Tony, does it matter to you if the fans are behind you?
T.S. My manager speaks for me too, who cares?
W.E. I guess on that note I'll ask you if you would like to leave our readers or "FANS" with any thoughts?
EQU. Sure. We're in this business for one thing, and that's MONEY. You make money by being a Winner. Our friends are few and far between. We don't need friends or fans and we don't want them. We'll do whatever it takes to win a match and we'll laugh all the way to the bank. You might hate us but I guarantee you'll respect us. We've been called "The Bad Seeds Of South Philly", but I'll tell you one thing; these seeds are starting to blossom into a force to be reckoned with. So to all you wrestlers out there who are standing in "The Hit Man's way; Watch Out, The Next Contract Might Just Be On You!"
W.E. Hit Man, would you like to add anything to that?
T.S. My man said it all, he said it all.
W.E. As I said in introducing this interview, these guys are at times obnoxiously honest, but, nevertheless honest. And as they said; You may not like them. But you have to respect them. Once again, we thank the two of you for your time.

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RICHMOND WRESTLING REPORT: DAVID LEEHY ED. 9348 Telstar Rd. Richmond, Va 23237 .50¢ per issue. Yearly $6.00. Published monthly.

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GLOBAL WRESTLING NEWS SERVICE: TOM BURKE ED. 31 Groveland St., Springfield Ma 01108. $1.50 plus SASE per issue. $7.00 for four issues and yearly $21.00. This is an institution among all fanzines on the market today. You'll find results, news, nostalgia and newspaper clippings round out this fine publication. One look and you'll understand why it's been around so long. Comes with our highest recommendation.

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GLOBAL MAT INFORMATION: DAVID HOWELL, ED. 116 Woodbury Ave, Stamford, Ct 06907. $1.50 per issue. Yearly $15.00. Published monthly.

Computer graphics and clear, concise type makes this bulletin very easy on the eye. You'll get news, results, ratings, trivia contests and video reviews when you order this one. Certainly worth a look. Also, just a reminder that this

editor as well as the editors ask that you make your check payable to them *NOT* the name of the publication to which you are subscribing.

PEN PALS

A.J. MACKENZIE—Age 18, 401 Elm St, Gaffney S.C. 29340 would like to hear from all who are fans of the NWA. Will try to answer all serious letters.

KRYSTA ROARK—Age 13, 1702 McClellan Dr, Johnson City, Tn 37604 would like to her from fans between the ages of 12 and 16 who like the Rock 'n Roll Express, Sting, Lex Luger, Barry Windham, Superpowers, Magnum TA and the Road Warriors.

BIERN HAYBURN—Age 13, 6552 Windsor Ave, Phila, Pa 19142 likes the WWF and the NWA and would like to hear from fans of the Road Warriors, Lex Luger, Rock 'n Roll Express, Tom Zenk, Rick Martel and Randy Savage. Will answer all letters.

DAVID "GABBY" MITCHELL—Age 17, 4116 Grace Ct, Baltimore, Md 21226 wishes to hear from fans of the Road Warriors, Lex Luger, Dusty Rhodes, Nikita Koloff and Bam Bam Bigelow. Promises to answer all.

MICHELLE KORTEPETER—Age 15, 3308 Ivory Way, Indianapolis, Indiana 46227 would like to hear from fans of the British Bulldogs and Ricky "the Dragon" Steamboat.

MARTIN CAMPBELL—7601 9th Ave, Apt 165, Pensacola, Fla 32514 is seeking pen pals with interests in wrestlings. Some of many favorites include the Missing Link, Billy Jack Haynes, Lex Luger, Chris Adams, Jake "the Snake" Roberts, Road Warriors, Rock 'n Roll Express, Hacksaw Jim Duggan and Roddy Piper. Will answer all letters.

JOE FAZIO—23 Ruth Place, Park Ridge, NJ 07656 loves the NWA and the WWF, especially Hulk Hogan, Sting, Lex Luger, Hacksaw Duggan and the British Bulldogs. Will respond quickly to all.

VONDA McCARN—Age 16, 409 S. Maple St, Dallas NC 28034 would like to hear from fans of the Rock 'n Roll Express, Barry Windham, Ric Flair and Ronnie Garvin.

DONNA ANDERSON—Age 13, 1209 W. Mauney Ave, Gastonia, NC 28052 would like to hear from fans of the Rock 'n Roll Express, Lex Luger and Sting. Will answer all letters.

KIM NOWAKOWSKI—Age 11, 312 Fairmont Dr. Saskatoon, Sask. S7M 4P1 would like to hear from all between 11 and 17 who like Randy Savage, Brutus Beefcake, Strike Force, Rick Rude, Hulk Hogan, and the British Bulldogs.

JEFF SIMPSON—Age 19, 1203 Bell Ave, Lenoir City, Tn 37771 would like to hear from fans of Lex Luger, Bam Bam Bigelow, Ted DiBiase and anyone who dislikes Hulk Hogan.

STEVE CAMPBELL—Age 16, 123 Arthur St, Roma 4455 Queensland, Australia would like to hear from fans of Ricky Steamboat, Mr. Wonderful, JYD, Brutus Beefcake, George Steele, Billy Jack Haynes, Hulk Hogan, Ken Patera, the British Bulldogs and Strike Force. Promises a same day reply.

JESSICA CHAREST—Age 15, #406-1345 W 4th Ave, Vancouver, B.C. Canada V6H 3Y8 will answer all letters. Would love to hear from any Davey Boy Smith fans.

JACK ROSSO—Age 16, 5635 48B Ave, Delta, B.C. Canada V4K 4E4 would like to correspond with fans of Barry and Kendall Windham, Black Jack Mulligan, Rock 'n Roll Express, Road Warriors, Sting, Lex Luger, Sam Houston, Ultimate (Dingo) Warrior or any NWA wrestler.

KIM SHOEMAKER—Age 13, Rt 1 Box 11, Keith, Ky 40846 would like to hear from fans of Brutus Beefcake, British Bulldogs, Road Warriors, Hart Foundation and other good guys.

JENNIFER ZOIS—Age 12, 2798 Carol Rd. Union, NJ 07083 wants to hear from fans of the Hart Foundation, the Original Midnight Express, Ultimate Warrior, Rick Rude and Greg Valentine. Will respond to all letters.

ANN MARIE LITTLE—14416 Downing St, Dover, Fla 33527 is interested in corresponding with fans of World Class and NWA. Especially likes the Von Erichs, Chris Adams, Rock 'n Roll Express, the Garvins and the Armstrongs.

CHRISTINE CROSS—Age 15, 1022 Glenwood Ave, Hagerstown, Md 21740 would like to hear from fans of Brutus Beefcake, Hulk Hogan, Randy "Macho Man" Savage, Jake "the Snake" Roberts, Strike Force and other WWF stars.

ANDRE RICARD—11 9 Rue, Val D'Or, Canada P.Q. J9P 3k3 would like to hear from fans of women's wrestling or professional women wrestlers themselves.

ARDIS RAU—Age 24, R.R. #1, Box 820, Payne, Ohio 45880 would like to have pen pals who are fans of the WWF and especially fans of Strike Force and Danny Davis.

LINDA KAY RAU—Age 16, R.R.#1, Box 820, Payne, Ohio 45880 would like to hear from all WWF fans. Her favorites are the Ultimate Warrior, Strike Force, Hulk Hogan, Sam Houston, Randy Savage, Ricky Steamboat, Bulldogs and Beefcake. She also likes Lex Luger.

BILL RAU—Age 15, R.R. #1, Box 820, Payne, Ohio 45880 would like for fans of Hulk Hogan, Ultimate Warrior, Bam Bam Bigelow and Lex Luger to write.

CHERYL BELL—Age 20, P.O. Box 91, Campbell Hall, Il 62916 would like to hear from fans of Lex Luger, Barry Windham, Road Warriors, Sting, Rock 'n Roll Express, Superpowers and Magnum TA. Will answer all serious fans of these wrestlers only.

TODD CASSITY—Age 13, Rt 1, Box 22, Sweetwater, Al 36782 would like to hear from fans of Brutus Beefcake, Bam Bam Bigelow, Jake Roberts and Damien, Greg Gagne, Midnight Rockers, Kerry and Kevin Von Erich, Al Perez and GLOW wrestlers. Will respond to all letters.

JOSH SHUGHARTS—RD #1 Turnpike Ext. Clearfield, Pa 16839 would like to correspond with fans between 15 and 18 years of age who like the Ultimate Warrior, Sting, Rick Rude, New Breed, Young Stallions, Lex Luger or Ric Flair.

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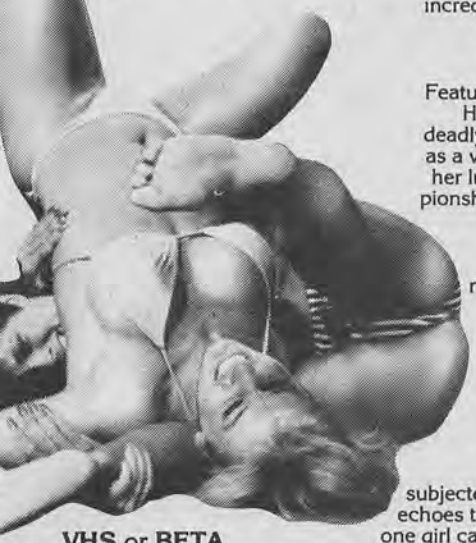

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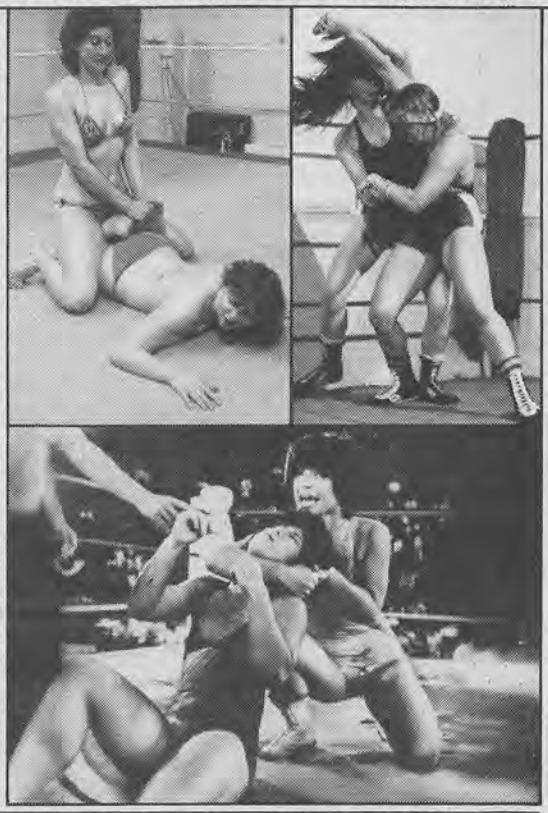

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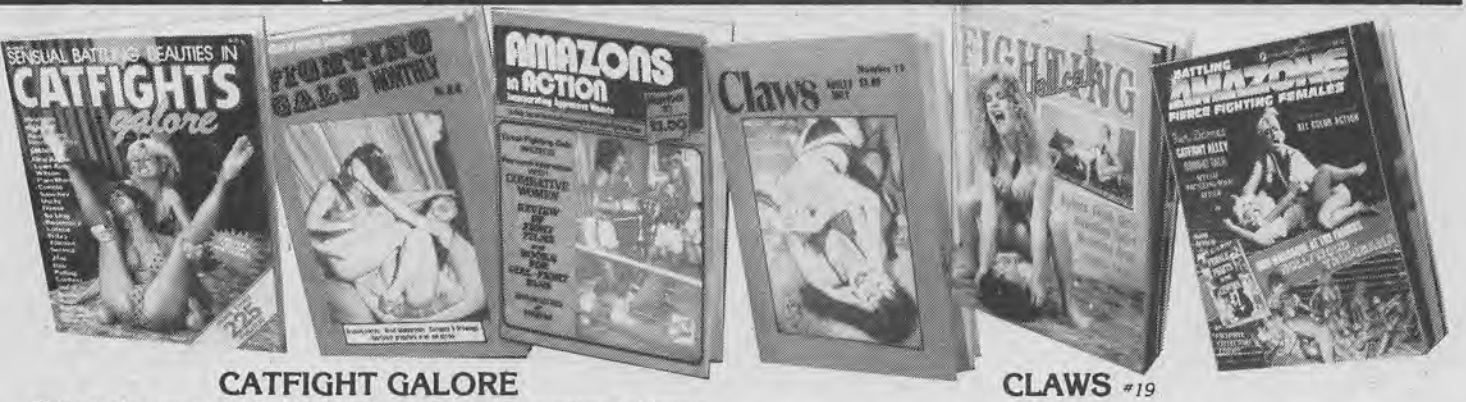

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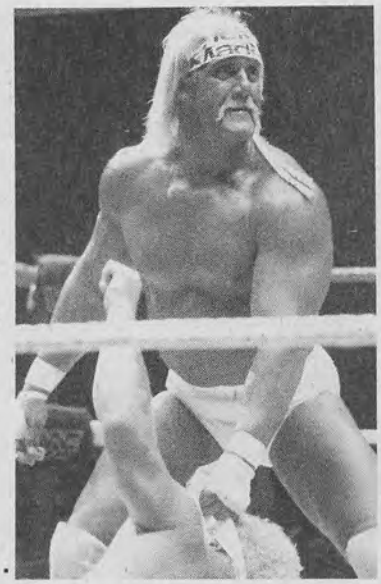
WRESTLING EYE'S

WWF

1. Ted DiBiase
2. Andre the Giant
3. Randy Savage
4. Ric Rude
5. The Honkytonk Man
6. Hacksaw Duggan
7. Don Muraco
8. The One Man Gang
9. Jake Roberts
10. Dino Bravo
11. Ricky Steamboat
12. Butch Reed
13. Greg Valentine
14. The Ultimate Warrior

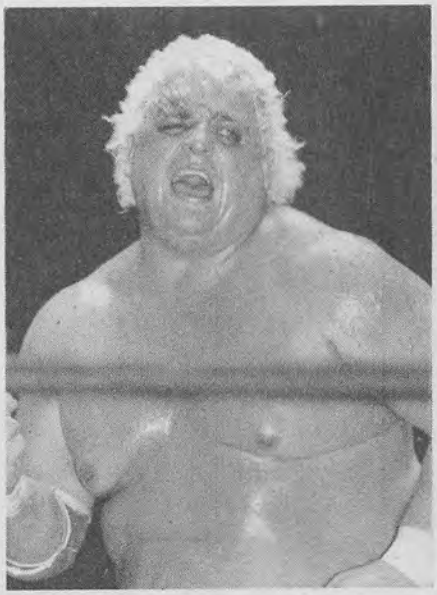


1.

NWA

Champ—Ric Flair

1. Lex Luger
2. Dusty Rhodes
3. Nikita Koloff
4. Sting
5. Tully Blanchard
6. Mike Rotundo
7. Rick Stiener
8. Ron Garvin
9. Jimmy Garvin
10. Ole Anderson



2.

UWF

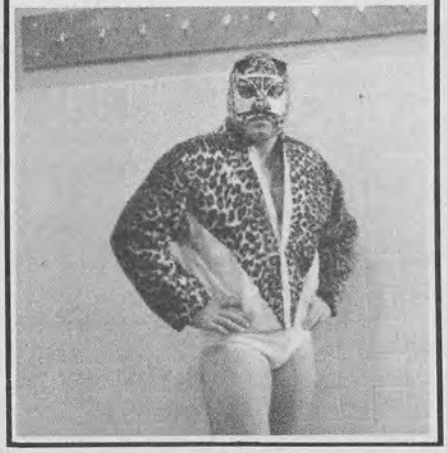
1. Steve Williams
2. Stane Lane
3. Bobby Eaton
4. Rick Steiner
5. Larry Zybysko
6. Dick Murdoch
7. Arn Anderson
8. Barry Windham
9. Shane Douglas
10. Ron Simmons

3.

NCW

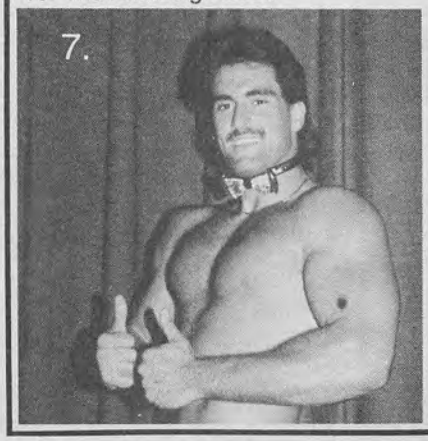
1. Sgt. Slaughter
2. Johnny Rodz
3. Toru Tanaka
4. Larry Sharpe
5. Abdullah the Butcher
6. The Iron Shiek
7. Cousin Luke
8. The Cheetah Kid
9. Charlie Fulton
10. Ox Baker

8.



EWA

1. David Shultz
2. Afa the Wild Somoan
3. Ox Baker
3. The Cheetah Kid
4. Jules Strongbow
5. Cousin Junior
6. Tom Cairo
7. Bull Butcher
8. Tom Brandi
9. Mike Kaluha
10. The Amazing Rocca



7.

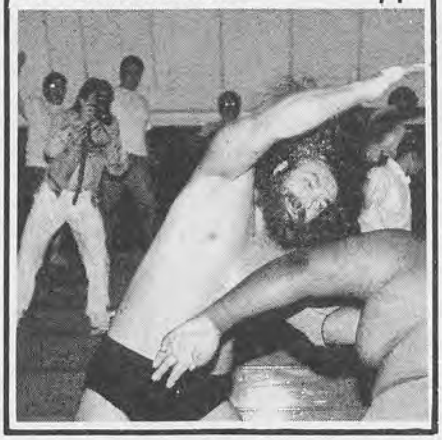
OFFICIAL RATINGS

AWA

1. Curt Hennig
2. Wahoo McDaniel
3. Tommy Rich
4. Dick Slater
5. Greg Gagne
6. Adrian Adonis
7. Kevin Kelly
8. D.J. Peterson
9. Mitch Snow
10. Dennis Condrey

WORLD CLASS

1. Al Perez
2. Kevin Von Erich
3. Tony Atlas
4. Ted Arcedi
5. Al Madril
6. Mil Mascaras
7. Bruiser Brody
8. Vince Apollo
9. Steve Simpson
10. Frankie Lancaster



World WOMEN Ratings

1. Misty Blue Simmes
2. Sherri Martel
3. Wendi Richter
4. Linda Dallas
5. Debbie Combs
6. CAndi Devine
7. Nina
8. Velvet McIntyre
9. Hiedi Lee Morgan
10. Rockin' Robin

TOP TEN MANAGERS

1. J.J. Dillon
2. Jimmy Hart
3. Bobby Heenan
4. Paul Ellering
5. Jim Cornette
6. Paul E. Dangerously
7. Slick
8. Oliver Humperdink
9. Wendall Weatherbee
10. Shiek Ali Abdullah

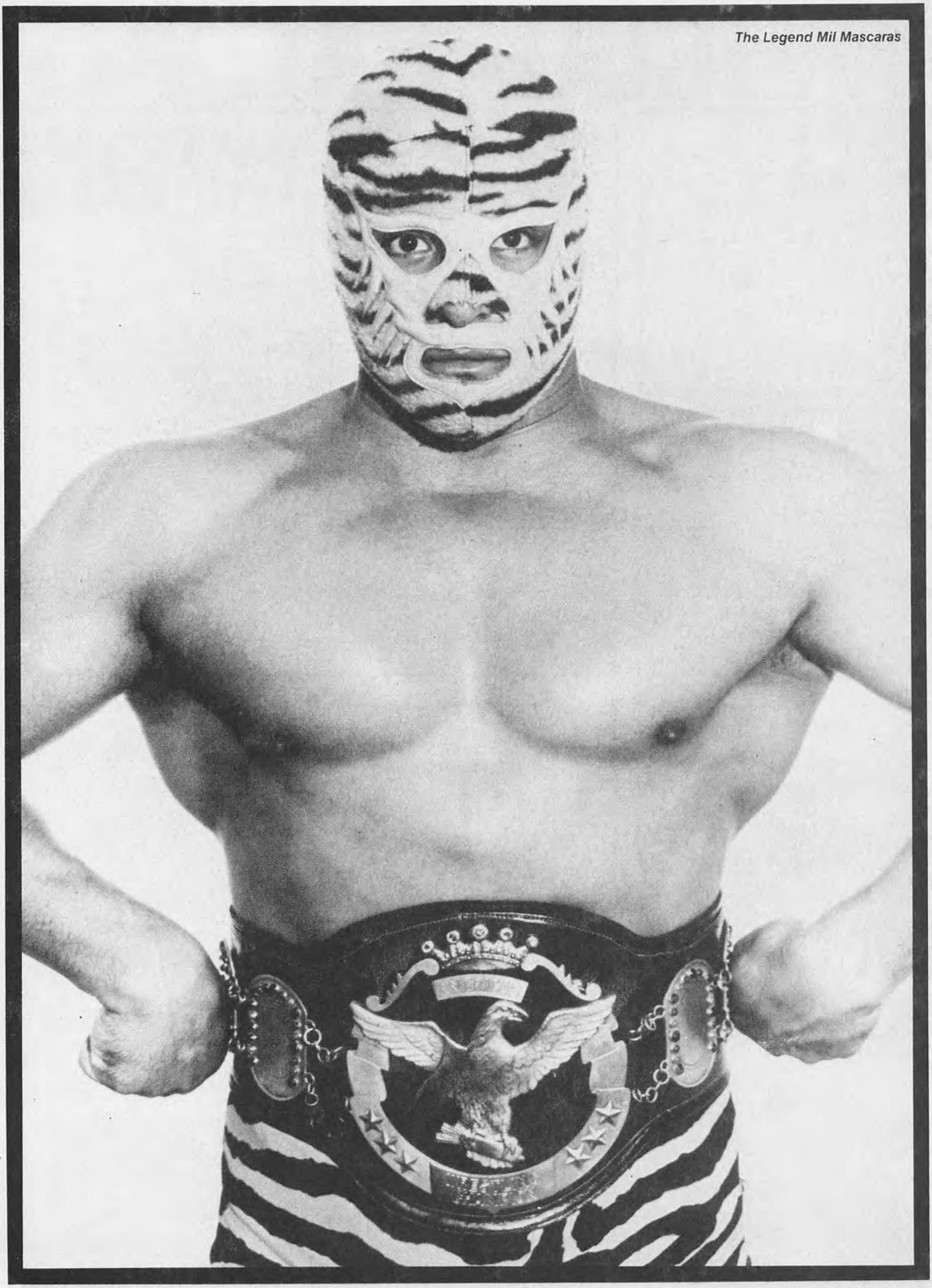
Top 15 Tag TEAMS

1. Tully Blanchard & Arn Anderson
2. The Road Warriors
3. Strike Force
4. Demolition
5. The Hart Foundation
6. The Rock 'n' Roll Express
7. Stan Lane & Bobby Eaton
8. The Midnight Rockers
9. Randy Rose & Dennis Condrey
10. Paul Roma & Jim Powers
11. The Barbarian & The Warload
12. The Bulldogs
13. The Islanders
14. The Invaders
15. The Sheepherders

TOP 15

The WORLD'S TOP 15 (RATED BY WRESTLING ABILITY)

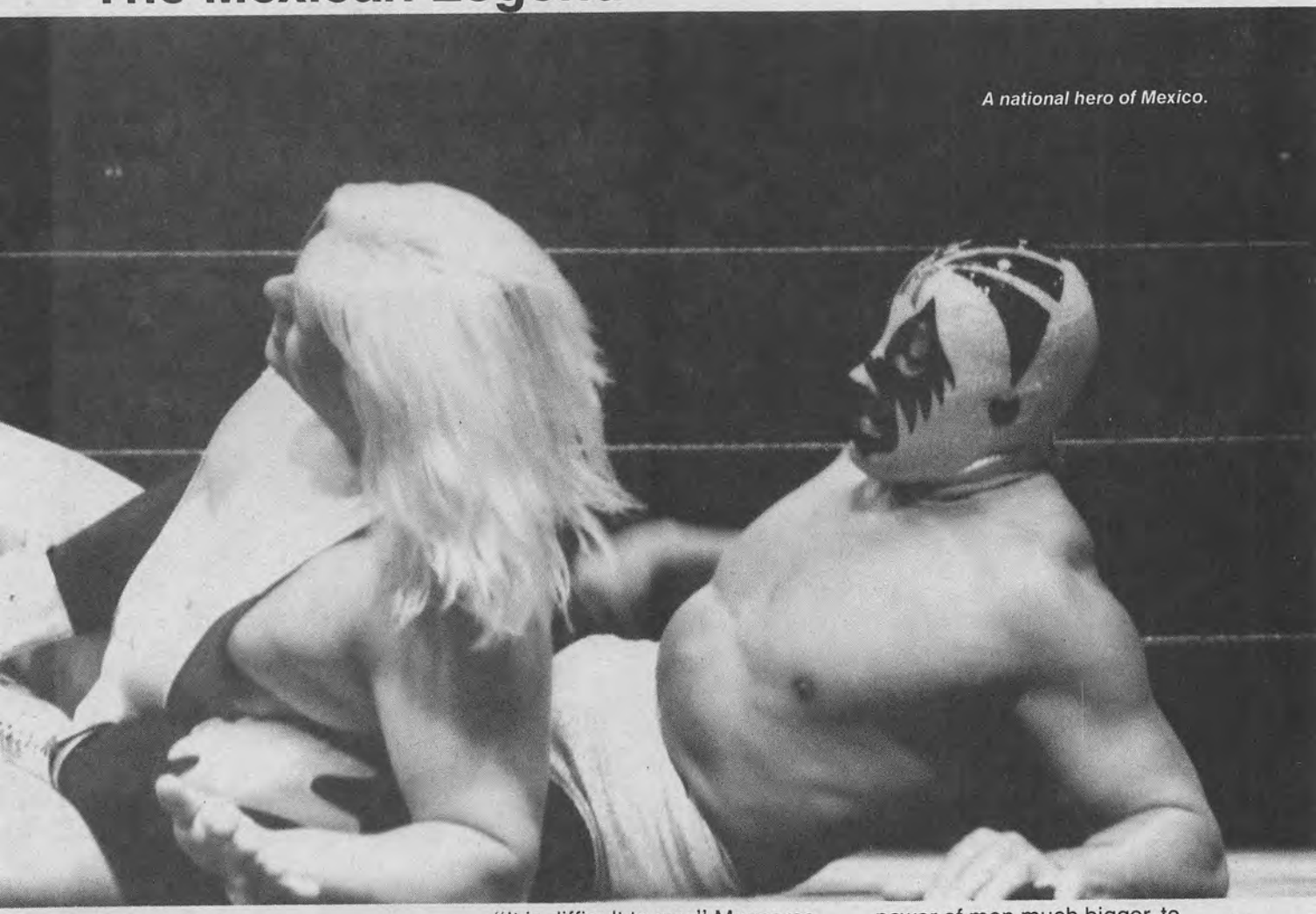
1. Ric Flair
2. Bret Hart
3. Barry Windham
4. Tully Blanchard
5. Ricky Steamboat
6. Terry Taylor
7. Tatsumi Fuginami
8. Ted Dibiase
9. Riki Chosu
10. Curt Hennig
11. Sting
12. Stan Lane
13. The Cheetah Kid
14. The Black Ninja
15. Tom Zenk



The Legend Mil Mascaras

"MIL MASCARAS"

"The Mexican Legend"



A national hero of Mexico.

By Tom Clutters

Even the most casual of pro wrestling fans have heard the name of Mil Mascaras. This Mexican grappling legend has long been considered one of the finest competitors ever to step into the squared circle. His ring skills are second to none.

Why then has Mexico's greatest athlete been virtually ignored by the American wrestling scene for the vast majority of his illustrious career?

"It is difficult to say," Mascaras admits. "I have been told that I was too good for most American wrestlers, but I have to believe that the real reasons will never be told." Indeed, the talents of Mil Mascaras would cause 99 out of 100 opponents to either think long and hard about signing for a match, or to simply refuse to do so at all. Called by many, "The Man of a Thousand Holds", Mascaras has shown an amazing knowledge of his sport, using a combination of high-flying aerial maneuvers together with the power of men much bigger, to chalk up an incredible winning percentage during his career.

In his homeland, Mascaras is as much a superstar on the silver screen as he is on the mat. Having made over 200 films, he is as recognizable to movie goers as his is to wrestling fans. His vast collection of masks (from which he takes his "Man of a Thousand Masks" name), provides this national celebrity with a measure of privacy which is afforded only a few of the famous. "I wear the masks both in

the ring and when I am acting," he says. "And when I go out in public, no one knows who I am, and I can come and go as I please."

After starting his mat career at home, Mascaras took his act to Southern California, where he became an immediate hit with the Spanish-American population. Mil regularly highlighted the regular cards at the Olympic Auditorium in Los Angeles, and was hailed as a "can't-miss" future superstar. Friend and foe alike were constantly amazed by what Mascaras could accomplish inside the ropes. His reputation grew, and he eventually ended up working for the East Coast-based IWA group, and after a very short time, he captured the IWA's version of the world heavyweight title. Mascaras was "the franchise" for the IWA, regularly meeting men like Ernie Ladd and Ivan Koloff in title defenses.

Following the demise of the IWA, Mascaras decided to concentrate more on his film career. With the exception of a brief stay in the World Wrestling Federation, he confined his ring activities to an occasional world tour, and audiences throughout many foreign lands were treated to his unique abilities. Despite his own belief that he could defeat any of the so-called "world champions", Mascaras saw that he was fighting a losing battle. "There were so many obstacles whenever I contacted a promotion about working," he admitted. "It was first this excuse, then that excuse, and it became so frustrating. Promoters wanted me to wrestle for them, but it was always with too many restrictions and conditions."

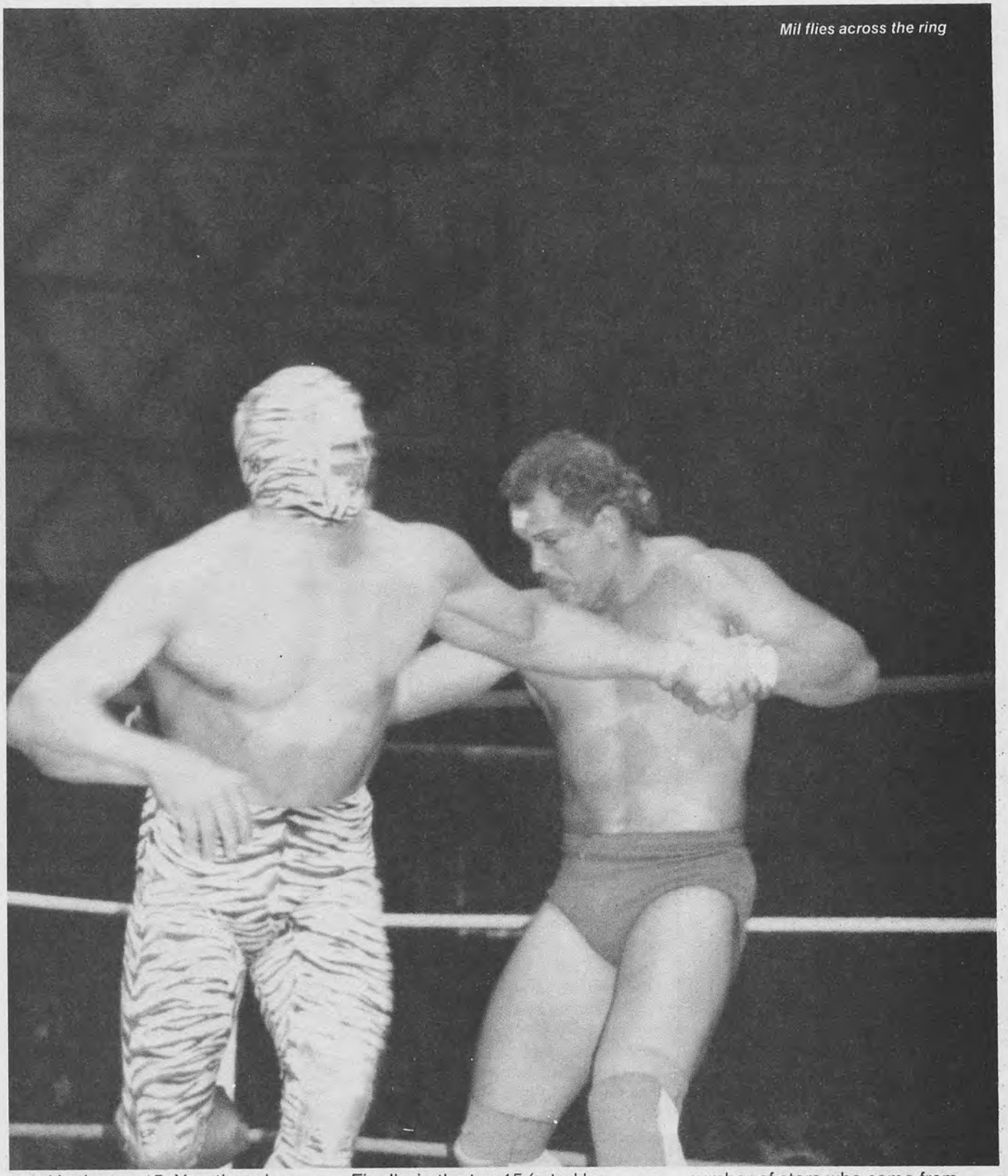
Mascaras, whose real name is Arren Rodriguez, feels particularly confident that he could defeat NWA champion Ric Flair if given the chance. "Ric Flair is one of the most skilled men in wrestling. He has not been able to hold on to his championship for so long without a great deal of ability. But, he also has some major weaknesses which should be obvious to anyone who might wrestle him. I would love to get the chance to meet him in the ring, just so I could take advantage of what I know, but I cannot see that happening now," Mascara says, almost sadly.

Now over 40 years of age, Mil Mascaras realizes that his hopes of gaining a shot at either the NWA or WWF titles are practically gone. "Time is running short for me," he admits. Having moved into Fritz Von Erich's World Class promotional area, Mil might campaign for a shot at WCCW champ Al Perez. Or, he could set his sights on AWA kingpin Curt Hennig should he see the chance. "Al Perez is young and strong and smart. He might be a little lacking in experience right now, but his manager, Gary Hart, makes up for that," said Mascaras. "Much the same can be said for Curt Hennig, but he has no manager like Perez. I feel that my experience would give me the advantage against either of them."

Those Americans who were unfamiliar with Mil Mascaras were introduced to the Mexican champion on September 28, 1985, when he took on Freebird Buddy Roberts as part of "Super Clash '85" at Comiskey Park in Chicago. Mascaras and Roberts had collided many times during their careers, but Mil was clearly superior on this night against the crafty Roberts. Buddy sorted thorough his bag of tricks for some kind of effective combination, but Mascaras countered each and every foul tactic with a stunning scientific maneuver. At the seven-minute mark of the encounter, Mascaras crashed into the frustrated Freebird with a flying bodypress, and held him down for the three count. Unfortunately, that was the last time in the American spotlight for the masked Mexican.

Is there really a sort of "conspiracy" against foreign wrestling stars like Mascaras? Well, if you glance at WRESTLING EYE's ratings, you might get a clearer picture. In the WWF, for instance, only two wrestlers (Andre the Giant and Killer Khan) out of the top 15 are from other nations. In the NWA, only Puerto Rico's Carlos Colon is

Mascaras certainly knows his sport.



Mil flies across the ring

rated in the top 15. Yes, there is Nikita Koloff, but as all regular readers of WE know, Nikita is really Scott Simpson, who actually hails from the great state of Minnesota.

Moving on to the AWA, there are no non-Americans rated in the top ten. Down in the World Class area, there are "Latin Heartthrob" Al Perez, the Iron Sheik (from Iran), and South Africa's Steve Simpson.

Finally, in the top 15 (rated by wrestling ability), you have four competitors who hail from other than one of our 50 stages: Japanese stars Tatsumi Fuginami and Riki Chosyu, England's Les Thorton, and Canadian Owen Hart. When you consider the vast number of professional wrestlers who compete in the various organizations, the federations, the small number of stars who come from "overseas" certainly seems suspicious.

Maybe someday in the near future, foreign wrestlers will be allowed equal opportunity to make it big in American rings. However, when that time finally comes, it may already be too late for possibly the greatest of them all, Mil Mascaras.

PHANTOM of the ring

Most of the news this month is fairly blunt and mellow. First, how did you like that interview with Ric Flair a while back when he opened up a scar on his forehead and began to bleed? Really a sick pup, eh?...Hulk Hogan's wife is about to give birth to a baby. That may spell a vacation period from wrestling for the Hulkster...Rumors are still abound about Ric Flair negotiating with the World Wrestling Federation...Heard that Matilda, the mascot of the British Bulldogs just recently made a some sort of television commercial...The Rock 'n' Roll Express by the time you read this should be wrestling for the World Wrestling Federation...The Midnight Express, Dennis Condrey and Randy Rose have left the American Wrestling Association... Tom Zenk has also left the A.W.A. and speculations have it that he may resign with the World Wrestling Federation as a bad guy to feud with former partner and one half of Strike Force, Rick Martel...I was asked a question recently, who is the oldest wrestler still active today. My answer is the legendary Bobo Brazil, who still wrestles for independent groups in the Midwestern area. Bobo as far as I know is believe it or not around the age of 70 years old. Did you know that Bobo played pro baseball, under his birth given name of Houston Harris...Johnny Valiant has not been fired by the W.W.F. but rather is wrestling for them on a preliminary level for the W.W.F's smaller shows...The One Man Gang (George Gray), has been having some problems with the W.W.F. as of late. He's been 'no-showing' at arenas recently, and King Kong Bundy, who by the way has been growing back his hair, has been taking the O.M.G.'s place ...Queen Kong of Powerful Women Of Wrestling fame has left P.O.W.W. and has been attempting to start her own promotion. I understand it may just be a run-off of G.L.O.W., the Gorgeous Ladies Of Wrestling...Tommy Rich, Dick Slater, Randy Rose, Dennis Condrey, and Doug Somers have been wrestling independently for the Trans World Wrestling Federation...The World Wrestling Council of Puerto Rico is shortly going to attempt to run shows in the New York metropolitan area. Running up against the World Wrestling Federation is a losing idea, as the National Wrestling Alliance has proven...The National Wrestling Federation is going to be telecasting their shows on the SCORE Network soon.

One Man Gang has been a no show lately.

SCORE is in association with the Financial News Network. The N.W.F. tapes will be reaching thirty million homes...A group of independent wrestlers which include East Coast favorites The Cheetah Kid and Tony Stetson, will be touring Europe soon. The stops on the tour will include Vienna, Switzerland and France...The Cheetah Kid by the way, is scheduled shortly for a tour of Japan...While we're on the subject of Japan Dump Matsumoto the famous Japanese woman wrestler has retired. Billy Jack Haynes is out of the WWF...Ole Anderson may team with Lex Luger to try and bring the Horsemen to their knees...Until next month the Phantom will be 'snooping' to find out all the news that all you fans want to hear. Remember support the country's wildlife, attend your local wrestling matches!...Sayonara!

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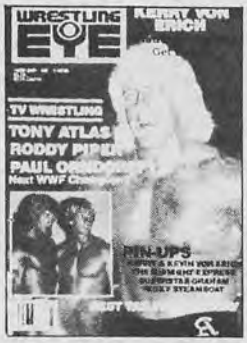

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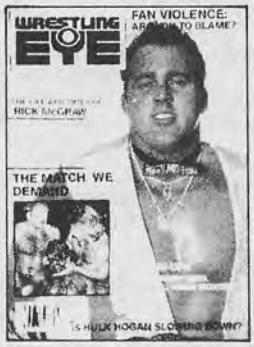
MAR. '86



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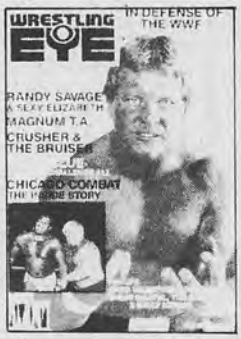

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JULY '86

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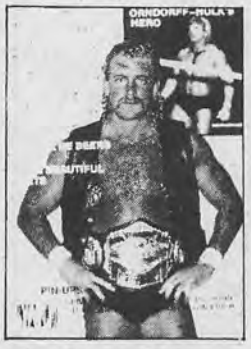

OCT. '86

NOV. '86

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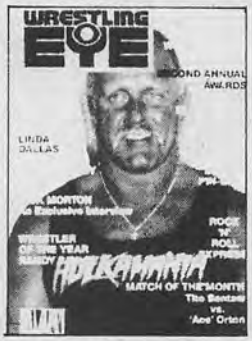
JAN. '87



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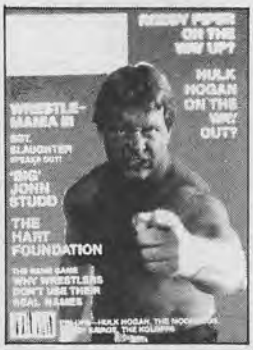

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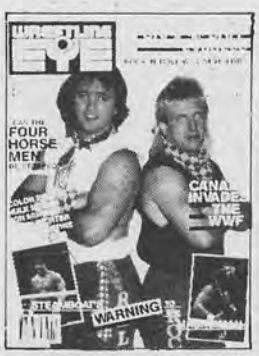

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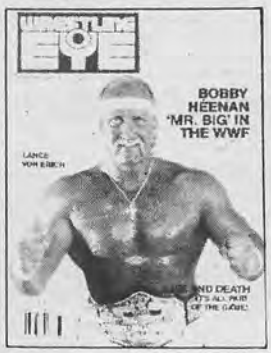

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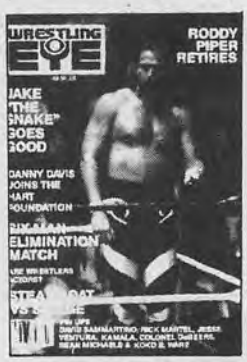

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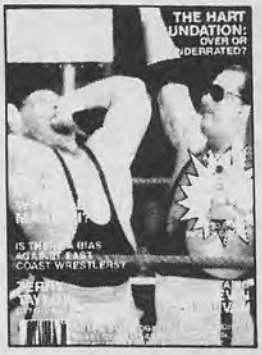

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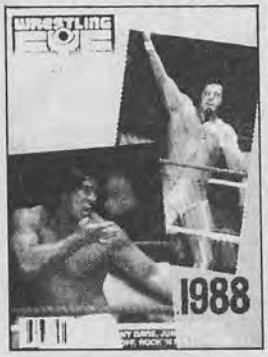

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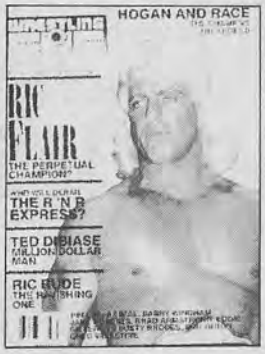

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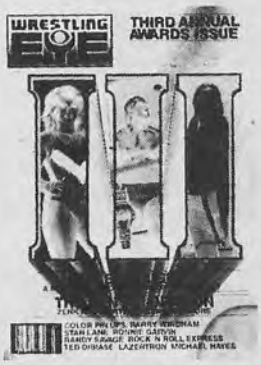

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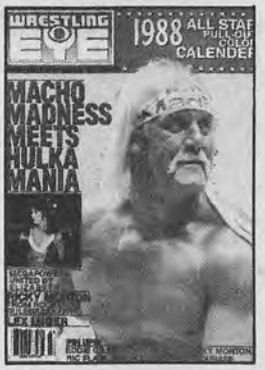

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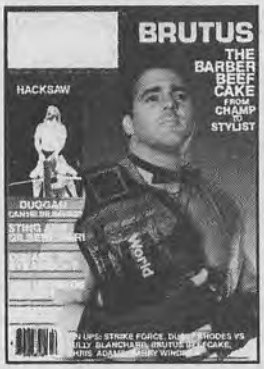

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SEND ALL LETTERS TO: WRESTLING EYE JEMS INC. P.O. BOX 138 MARLBORO, N.J. 07746 ATT: EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I've been a wrestling fan for some time now. When I lived in Arizona, I'd go to Phoenix to watch the matches. Now I live in Pa and I got to the matches as much as possible. During the weekends I like watching wrestling all day Saturday and Sunday. Saturday morning I watched the N.W.A. and the U.W.F. but then there was a change. GLOW came into the picture and the U.W.F. was removed. Anyway, to get to the point, that was the biggest mistake that was every made. I realize wrestling isn't all it appears to be, but I still enjoy watching. Frankly, GLOW turns me off as it does a lot of my friends who watch it. As soon as it comes on, the channel is changed or the TV goes off. GLOW belongs on the Gong show with the rest of the idiots. It does nothing but make a mockery of all the other wrestling alliances that are entertaining. So do me and all the other dedicated fans a favor and get that junk off the TV screen so we can enjoy Saturday mornings again!

Rick Kelly
Dillsburg, PA

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

I think your magazine is excellent. It has good pin ups. I think the best tag team in professional wrestling is the Road Warriors and then comes the Rock 'n Roll Express. I also think Sting is better than Flair. Flair shouldn't be the World Heavyweight champion because the only way he beats people is with the help of the Four Horsemen. The Road Warriors should get another title shot at Arn and Tully. Also, Barry Windham and Lex Luger are a good tag team and should get a title shot at the tag team belts. I think the Road Warriors will get revenge on the Warload and the Barbarian after what happened at the bench press contest.

Hai Tang
St. Ann, MO

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

I had mixed emotions about the results of Andre the Giant's "victory" over Hulk Hogan in Indianapolis. I think Vince McMahon is getting his WWF confused with a three ring circus. First there was the situation with the two look alike referees and then the recent stripping of the title from Ted Dibiase. (reminds me of a little situation in the NWA a few years back involving Larry Zbysko and Killer Kowalski.) Then again Andre won the belt rightfully in Wrestlemania III. Let me refresh your memory. Andre had Hogan in a very powerful bearhug and was as close as anyone has come to winning the title. It seemed for a moment that Hulkamania was dead but here comes referee Joey Morella to the rescue. He lifted Hogan's arm four times instead of three. Hogan's arm dropped the first three times, thus Andre won the belt right then and there. In my opinion, Mr. McMahon better concern himself with the wrestling action at hand instead of "his greatest show on earth." Also, I was interested in the identities of my favorite wrestlers: the Ultimate Warrior and Sting. Thank you for your time. This is a truly great magazine.

Jason Sousa
Fall River, MA

EDITORS NOTE: The Ultimate Warrior is Jim Hellwig and Sting started life as Steve Bordon.

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

I would like to comment on Al Perez. He is the World Class Heavyweight Champion. World Class is the only major wrestling alliance where a belt does not change hands on a dq. Perez beats his opponents by pinfalls or submissions, not like Ric Flair. Please have more photos and stories on Al Perez.

Todd Cassity
Sweet Water, AL

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

I have been a wrestling fan for a couple of years, and have been watching the WWF and the NWA. I can't see how wrestling fans compare the two. There is no comparision because the NWA wrestlers are second rate to the WWF wrestlers.

If anyone thinks for a moment that Ric Flair could pin the Hulkster, they should seek out a psychiatrist for help. I would also like to see the Macho Man destroy Lex Luger and Bam Bam Bigelow beat up Bubba Rogers. Let's talk about the tag team matches. Strike Force would defeat Arn Anderson and Tully Blanchard. Demolition would have no problem with the Road Warriors and the Bulldogs and Bees would wipe out any Express that came at them. The WWF women are also much better wrestlers than any other federation.

Why don't Crockett and McMahon get together and come up with

a super Wrestlemania or Wrestlemania Starrcade? I'm sure that many wrestling fans would like to see the answers to many questions. This could be the biggest event ever, surpassing Wrestlemania III, the olympics of wrestling, the WWF vs the NWA in the squared circle. Let the wrestlers answer the questions instead of the fans.

Mark Nelson
Union City, GA

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

I have been a fan of the Universal Wrestling Federation for about two years and I think it's time that the true champs came forward in Terry Taylor, Eddie Gilbert, Dick Murdoch and Rick Steiner. I am getting sick and tired of seeing Terry and Eddie always get put down just because they are the best in the business. You call the WWF a federation, but I call it cabbage because you see the same people every night. Hulk Hogan is the so called champ but why doesn't he fight both the good and bad guys on TV? Also, Strike Force didn't win the tag team championship fairly because they had to double team every time.

D.J. Taylor
Victoria, Australia

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

I think your magazine is great! The PHANTOM OF THE RING section is my favorite. I would like to see more articles on Randy Savage. I like him a lot. More color pin ups would be great too!

Jason Amari
Harriman, NY

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

After purchasing several issues, I found *your* magazine to be the greatest of them all! The color photos are exceptional and the stories on the wrestlers are lengthy and interesting.

I would like to comment on the article "Sadistic Steve Strong." Since joining the AWA, I am now able to view Mr. Strong on TV. I too was a bit confused about his so called Indian heritage, as he was always billed as a Caucasian-American in the past. I agree with the author's coverage about the brutal and satanic tactics he displays in the ring.

It is true about his turncoat ways. At first, he would enter the AWA ring with feathers and Wahoo McDaniel. Now, he enters alone without the feathers. He walks to the ring in an arrogant way and methodically wrestles (by the rules) his opponent. It will not take long for him to be a known wrestler in such a popular organization. He seems smart, utilizing the coattails of a popular wrestler like McDaniel, and become established, then resort back to his old way.

A man of his size, bulk and stature is intimidating to his opponents. It appears to me that he is only good for one thing and that is to demolish his opponents the way he wants to. I have watched AWA wrestling for some time and feel the likes of Steve Strong is what they need. Keep up the good work Steve, destroy your opponents, break their bones and continue your climb as one of the best in the business today!

Robert Pagano
Palm Spring, FL

Dear Editor,

My favorite wrestlers are the Rock 'n Roll Express, Ric Flair and Ted "Million Dollar Man" DiBiase. I have collected all your magazines and in your next issue could you please include a pin up of Ric Flair? My favorite match was when Ric Flair pinned Ronnie Garvin to win the NWA World Championship back at Starrcade.

Jonathan Mazur
Long Island, NY

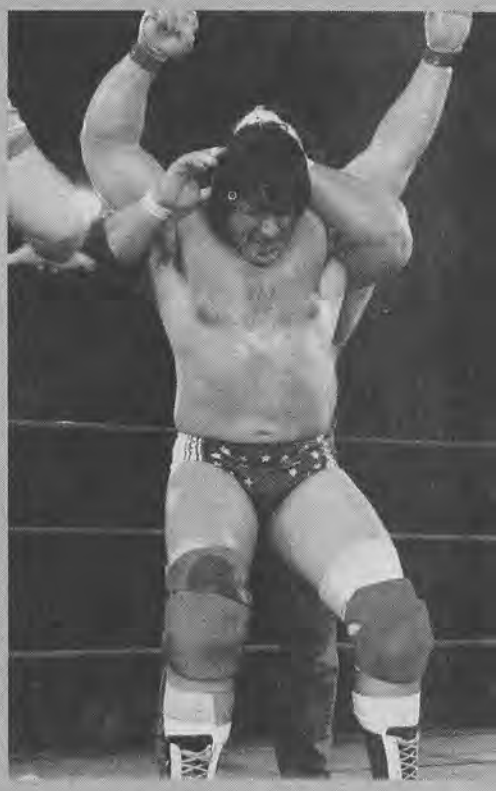
Dear WRESTLING EYE,

Dangerous Danny Davis is my favorite wrestler in the WWF because he once was a referee. If Danny had a manager like Bobby Heenan, his potential would be unlimited.

My crystal ball predicts that Bam Bam Bigelow will turn bad this year and dump his manager, Oliver Humperdink.

A Danny Davis Fan,
Steve Chaddock
Bklyn, NY

Reader Robert Pagano wants



to see more of Steve Strong.

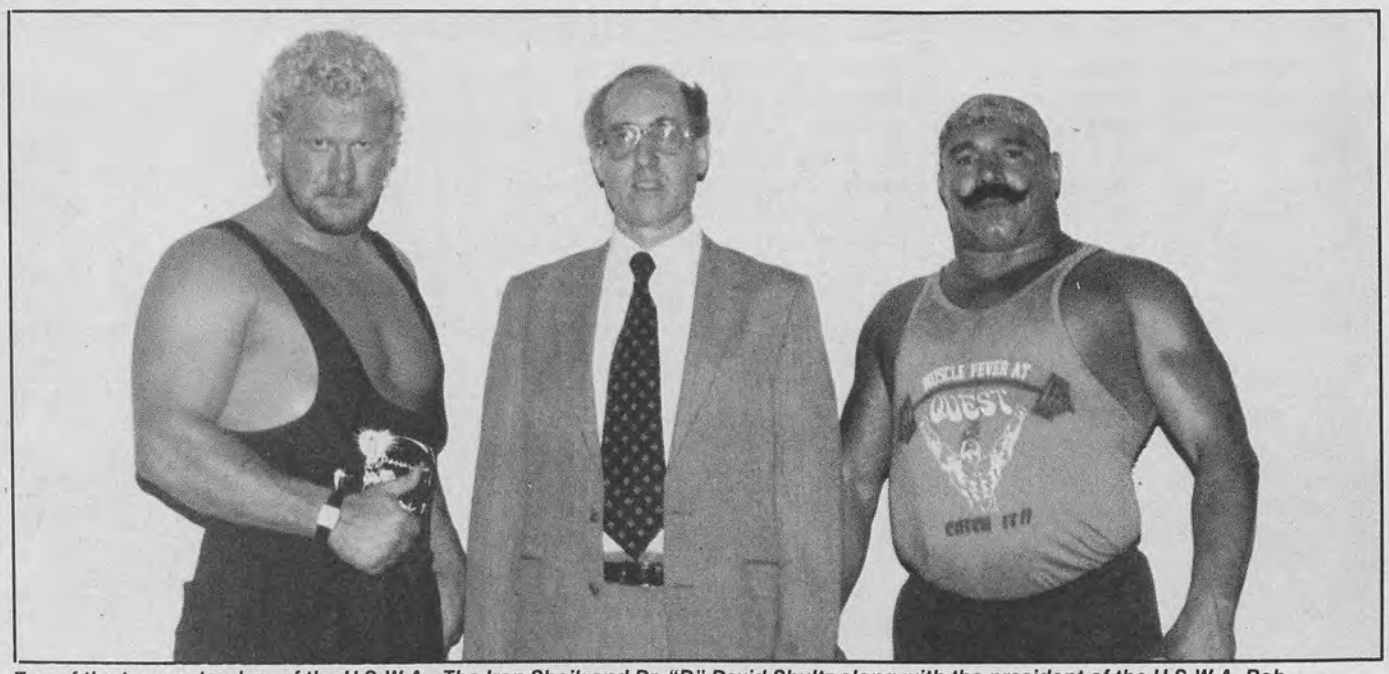
Dear WRESTLING EYE,

I think before you put out the next official managers ranking, you better check out *all* the competition!! There is a man working on the East Coast, named "Dirty Deeds: Darren Wyse" who uses interference and illegal, dirty tactics that would even put Jimmy Hart and Jim Cornette to shame, and I for one love it! He has such an awesome stable of wrestlers, King Kahula, Sweet Daddy Falcone, Champion the Ninja Warrior and his brilliant team of Diamond Dave and Hurricane Man, that I for one feel confident he will soon rule East Coast wrestling, if not all of professional wrestling. Please consider this supersexy new talent when you make out your next ratings chart. Thank you.

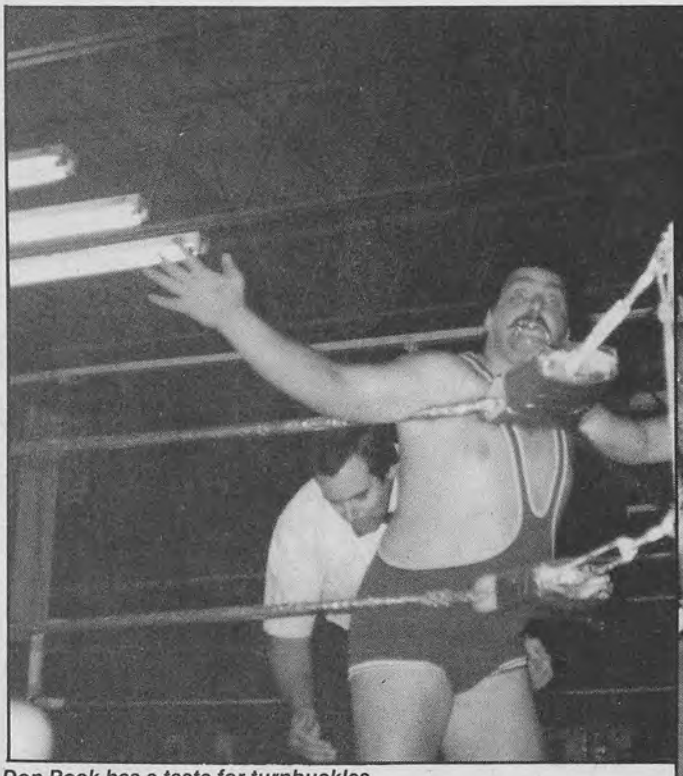
Mandy Brooks
Abbotstown, PA

"Independent Stars Gallery"

Photos by DeSpirito

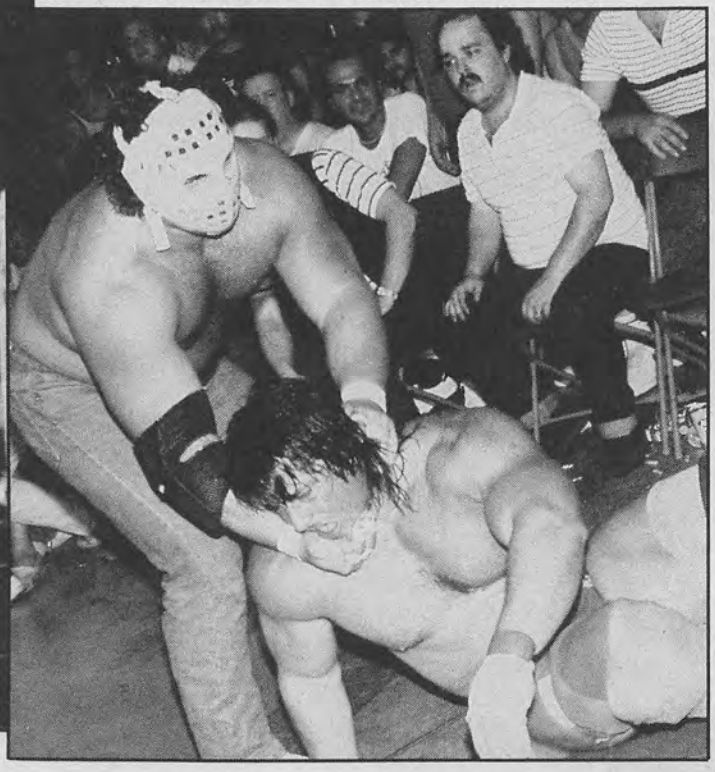


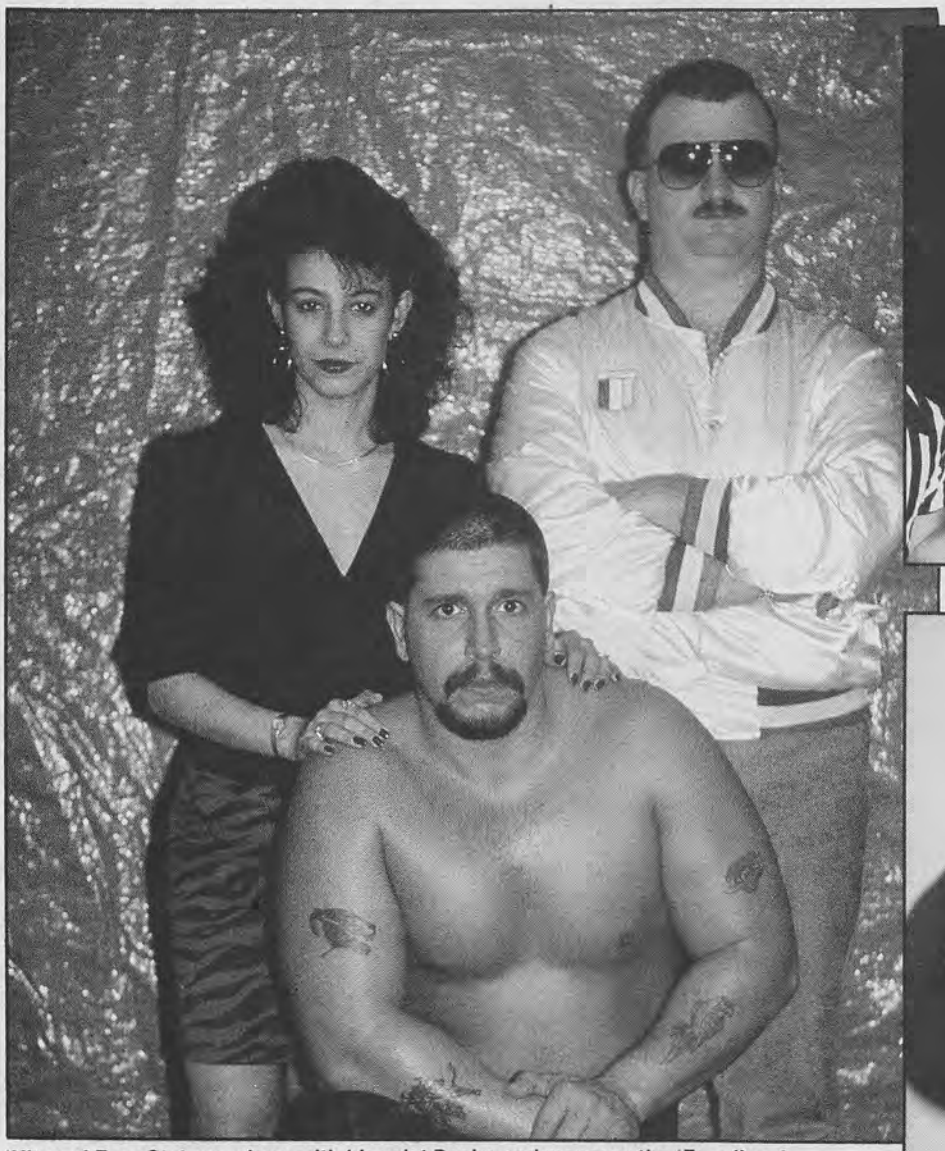
Two of the top contenders of the U.S.W.A., The Iron Sheik and Dr. "D" David Shultz along with the president of the U.S.W.A. Bob Raskin.



Don Rock has a taste for turnbuckles.

Jason the Terrible battles Steve Strong, outside the ring.





'Hitman' Tony Stetson, along with his valet Desire and manager the 'Equalizer.'

A bloody mess, Irish Davey O'Hannon.

King Kaluha of the N.W.F.

The Beach Boys, Larry Winters and Eddie Miranda, soak up the sun.

Dangerous Davy Gee of the U.S.W.A.

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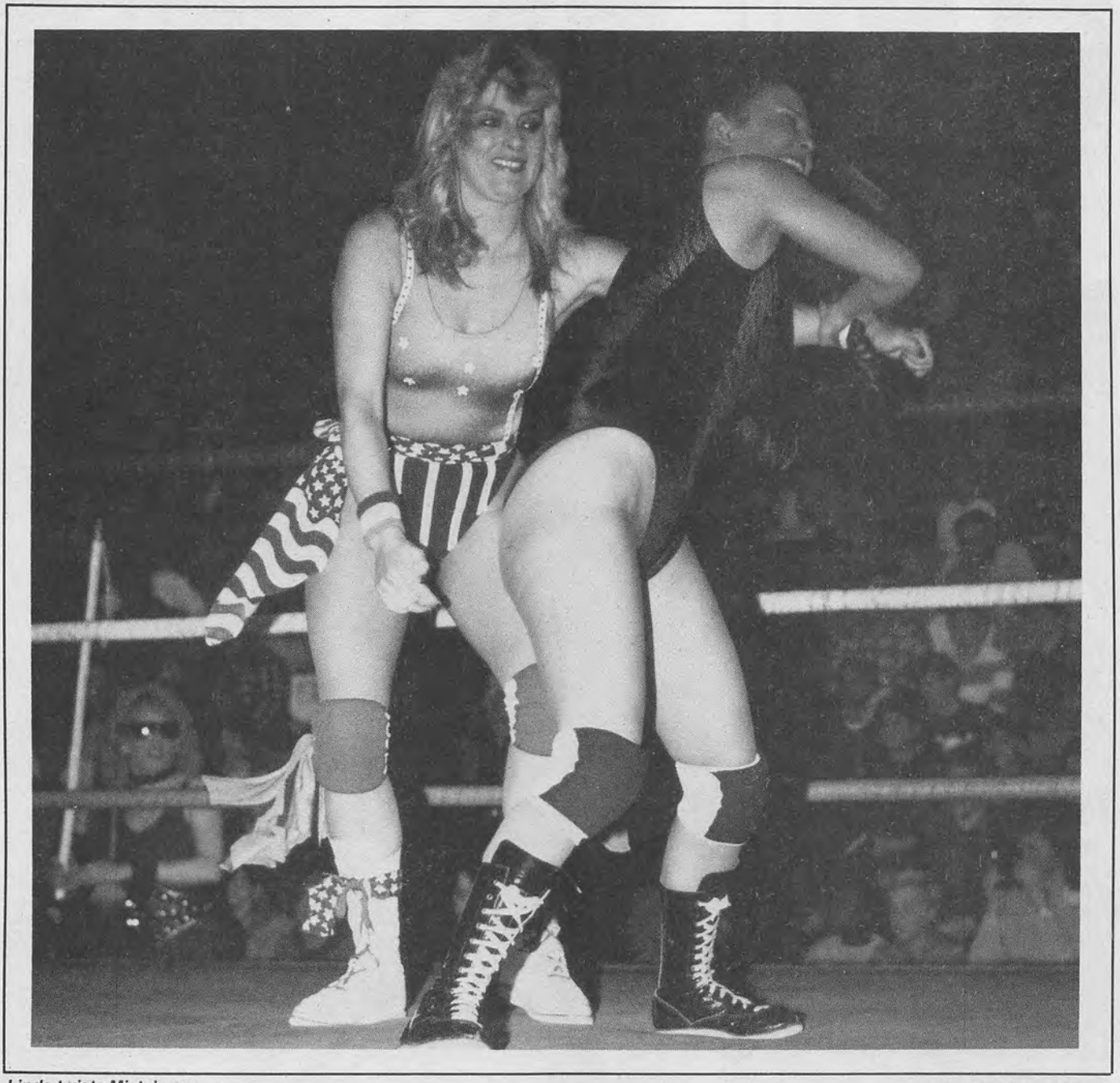
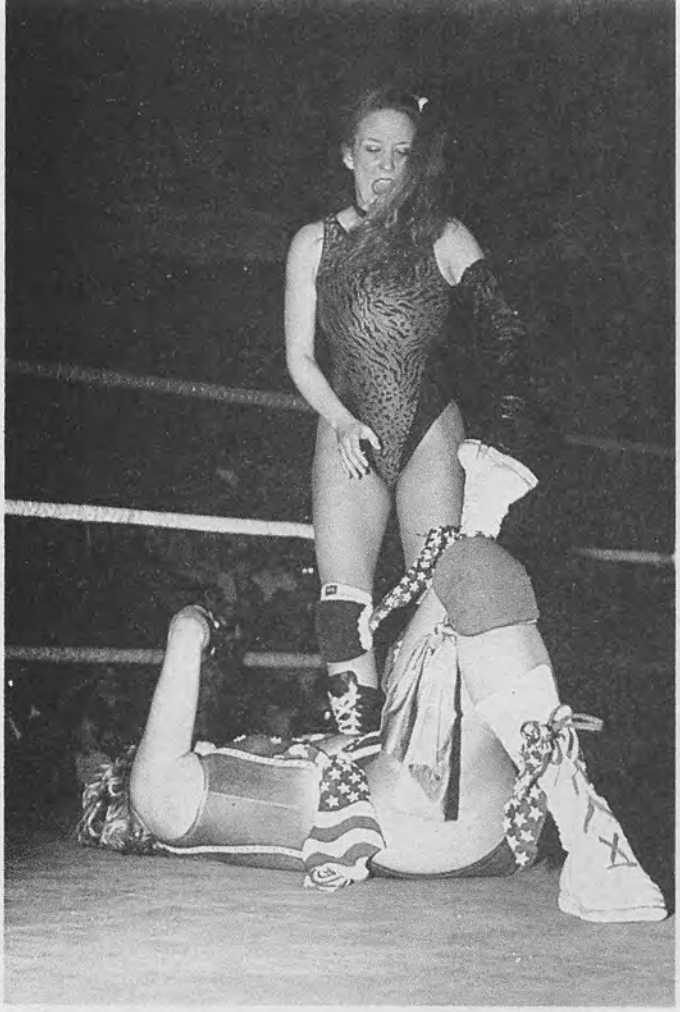
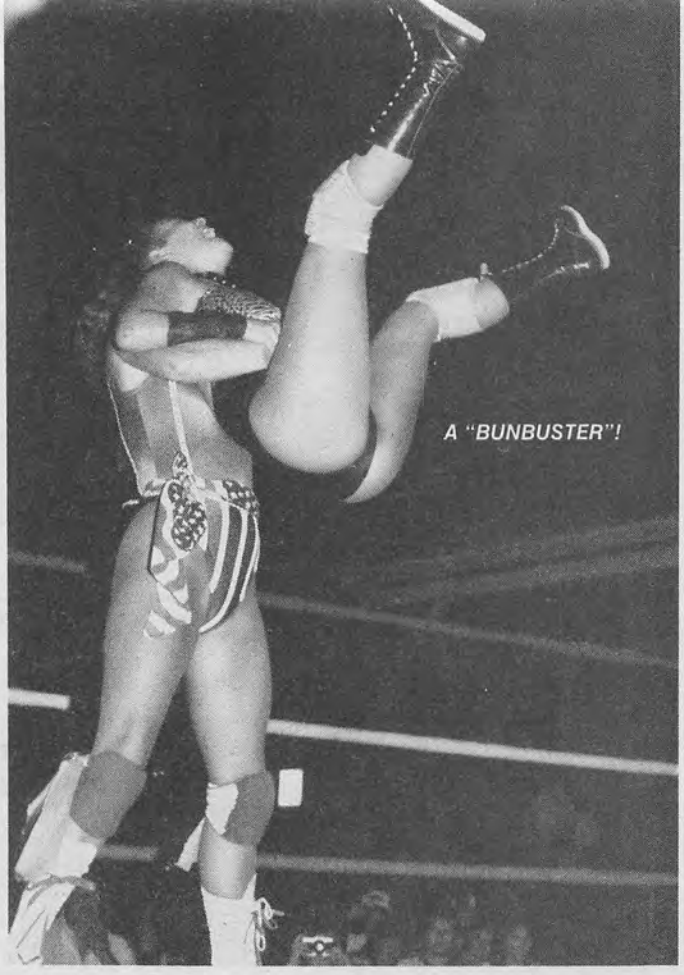
MISTY BLUE VS. LINDA DALLAS

WOMEN'S WRESTLING AT ITS BEST!



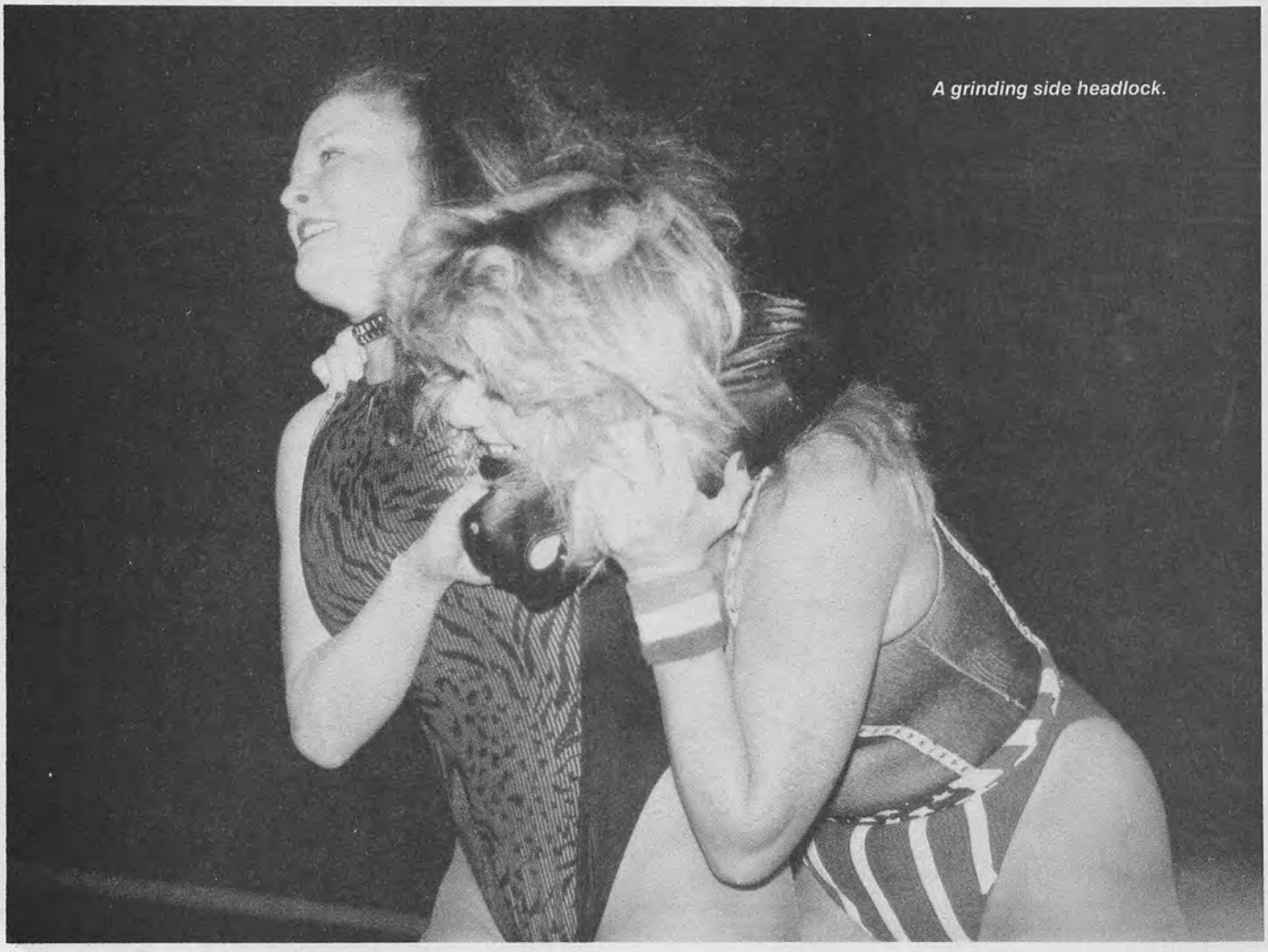
Linda twists Misty's arm.



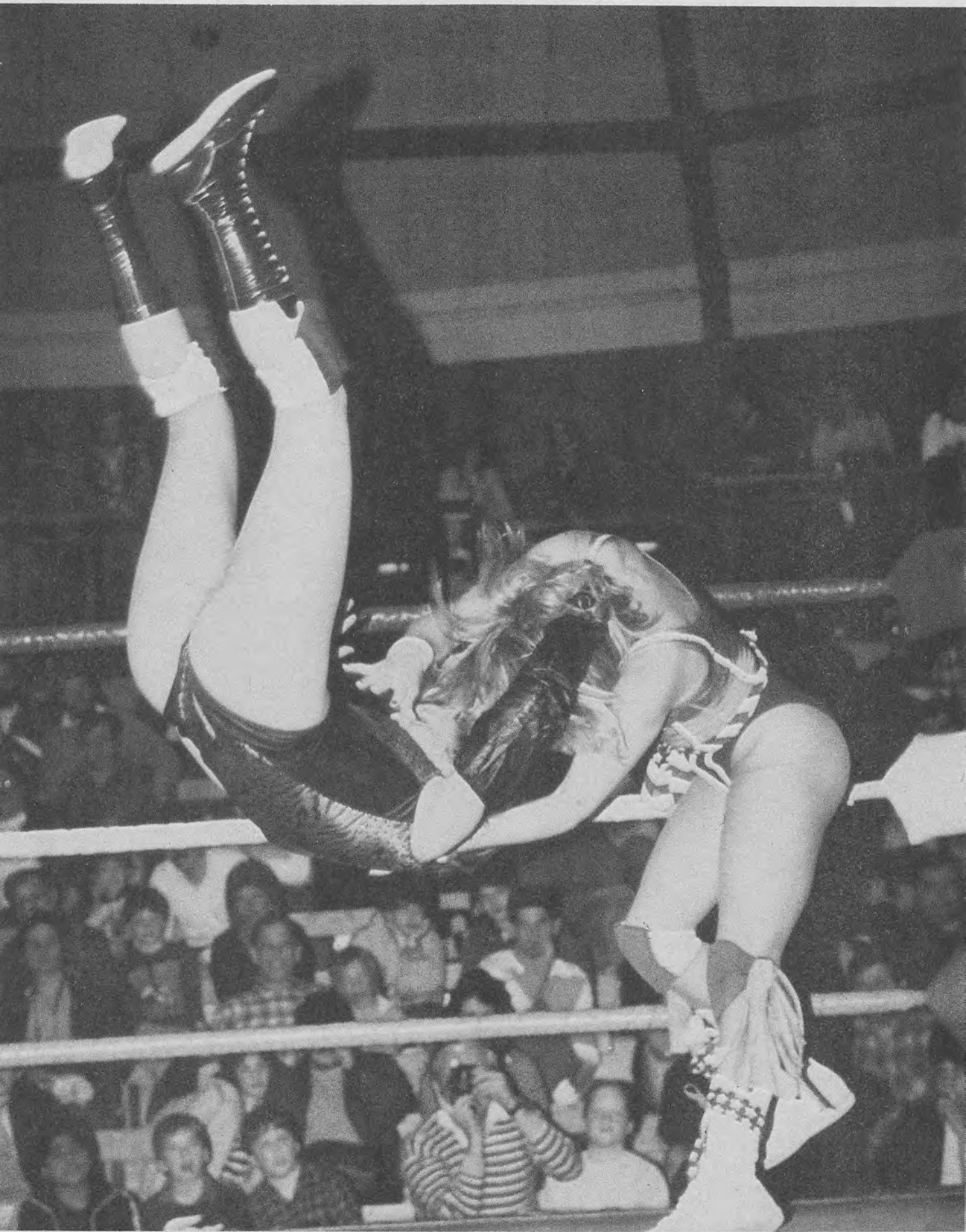


A "BUNBUSTER"!

Linda works on Misty's legs.



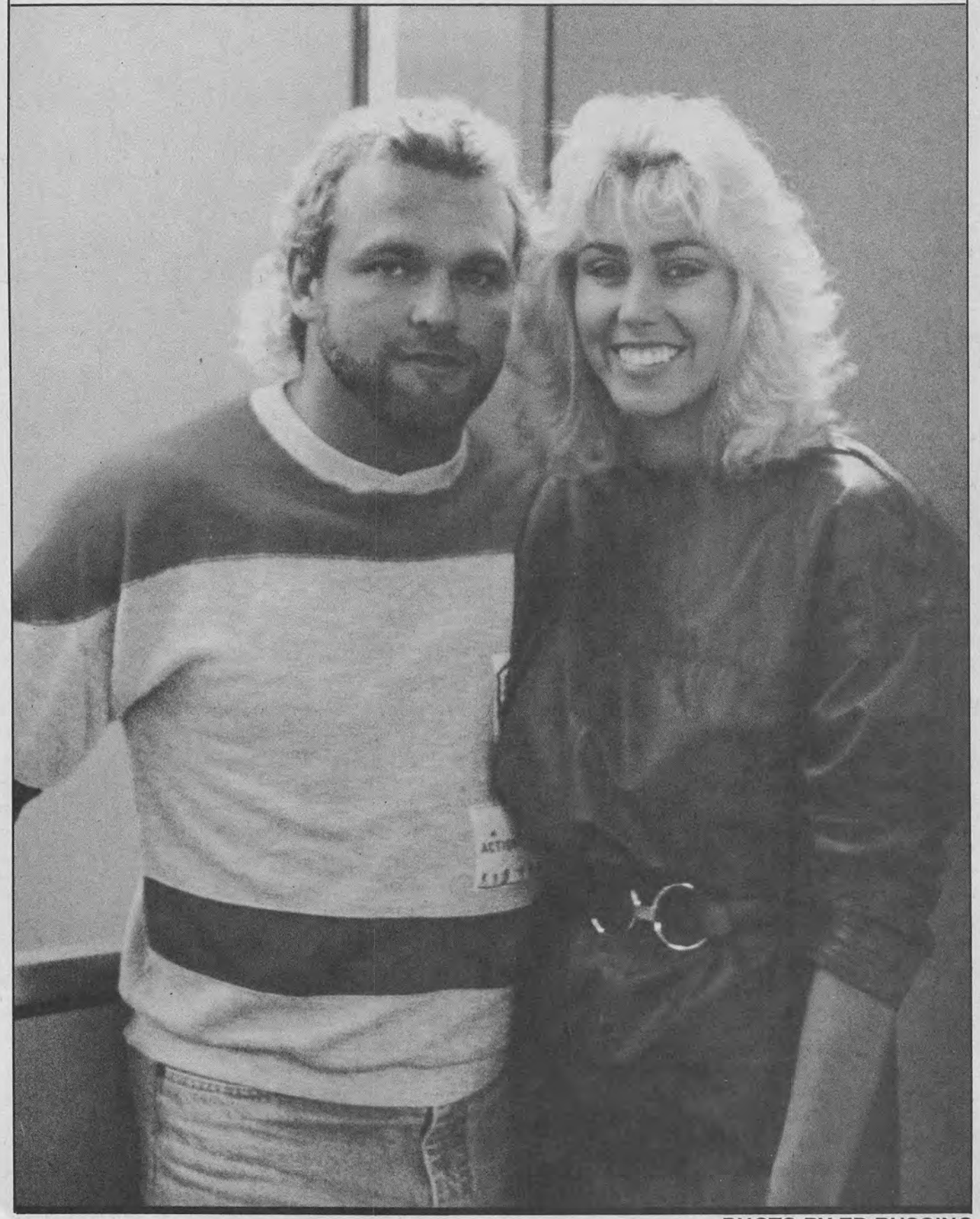
A grinding side headlock.



Misty throws Linda off the top buckle.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

EDDIE GILBERT AND MISSY HYATT



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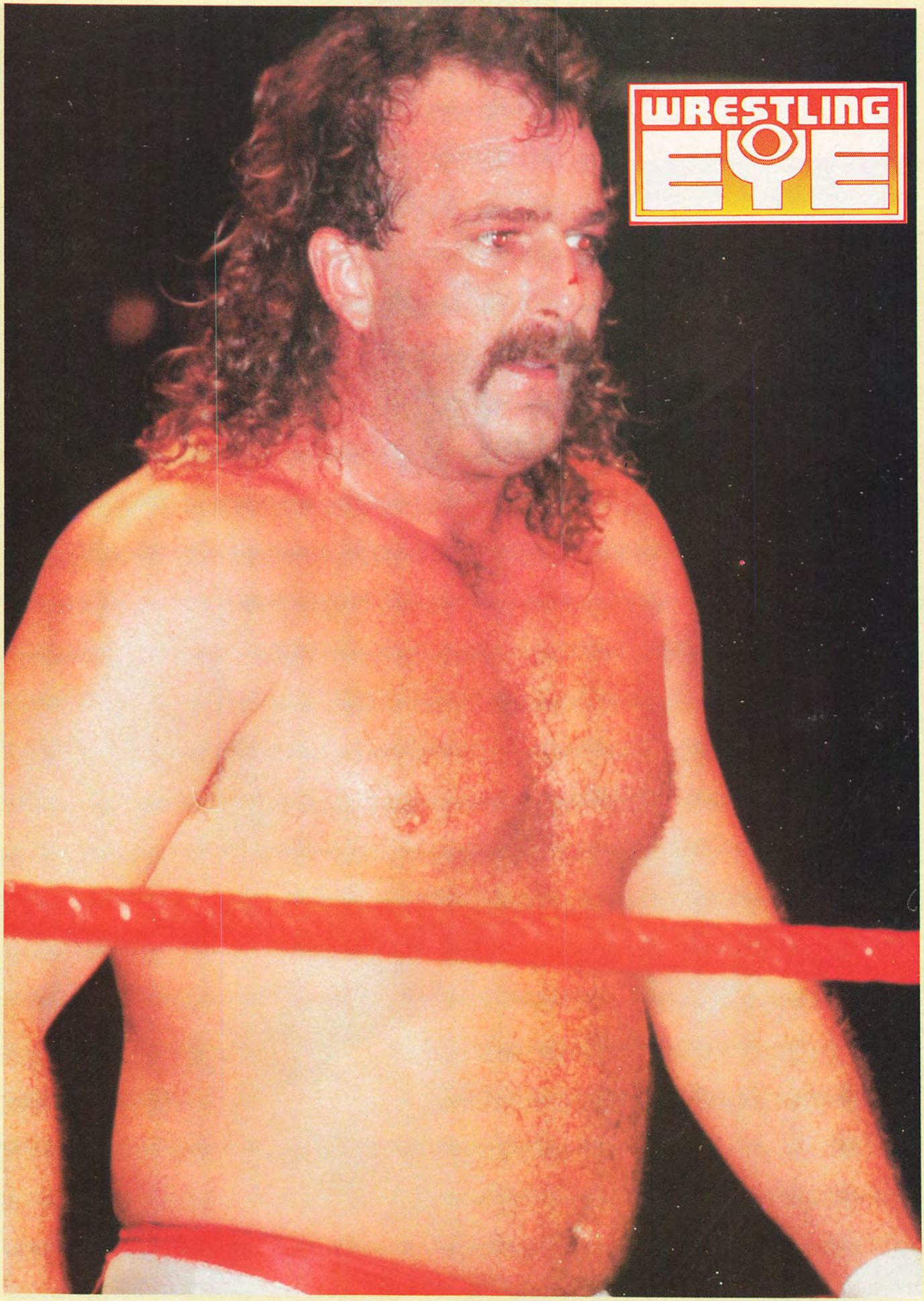
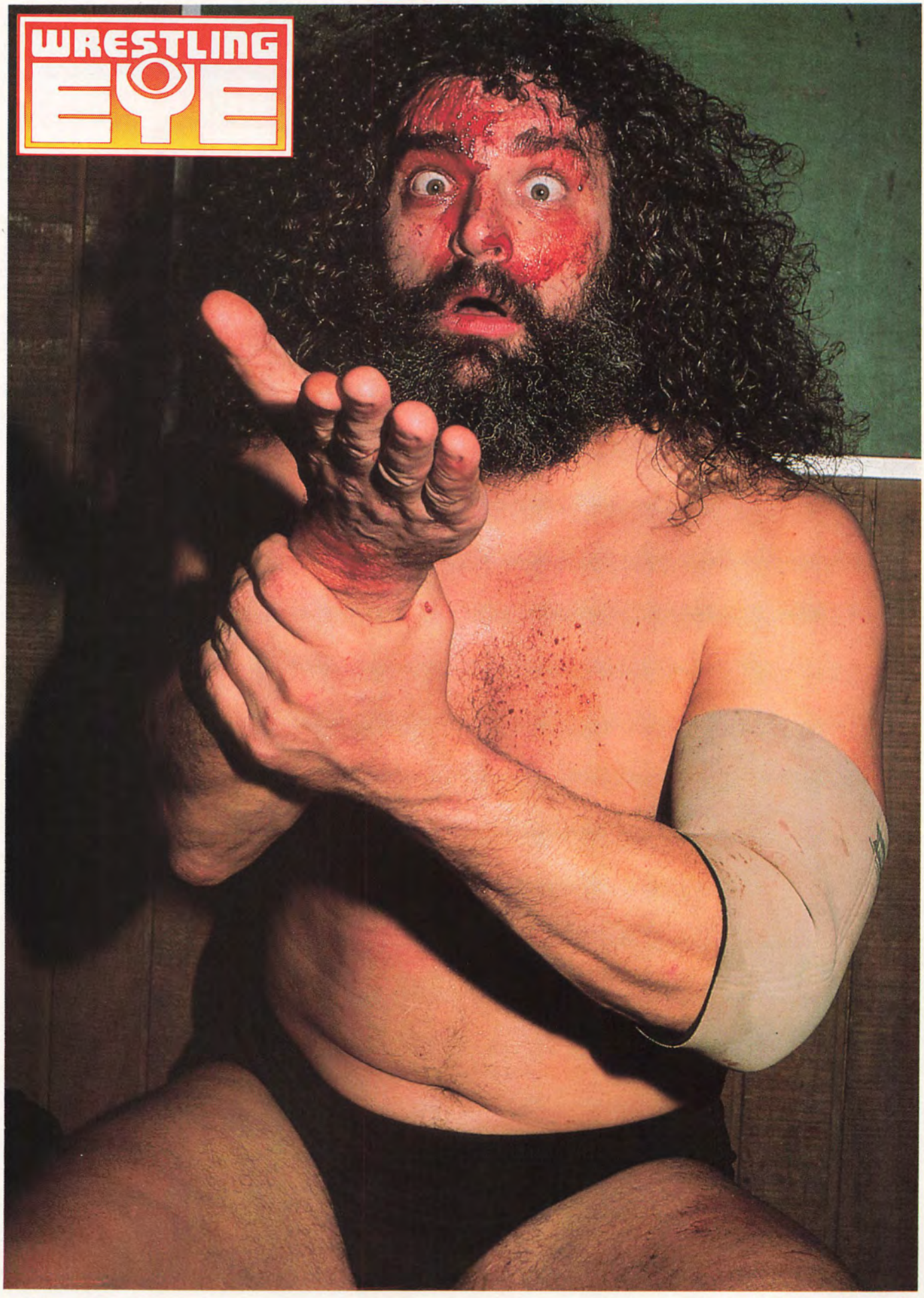
JAKE ROBERTS



BRUISER BRODY



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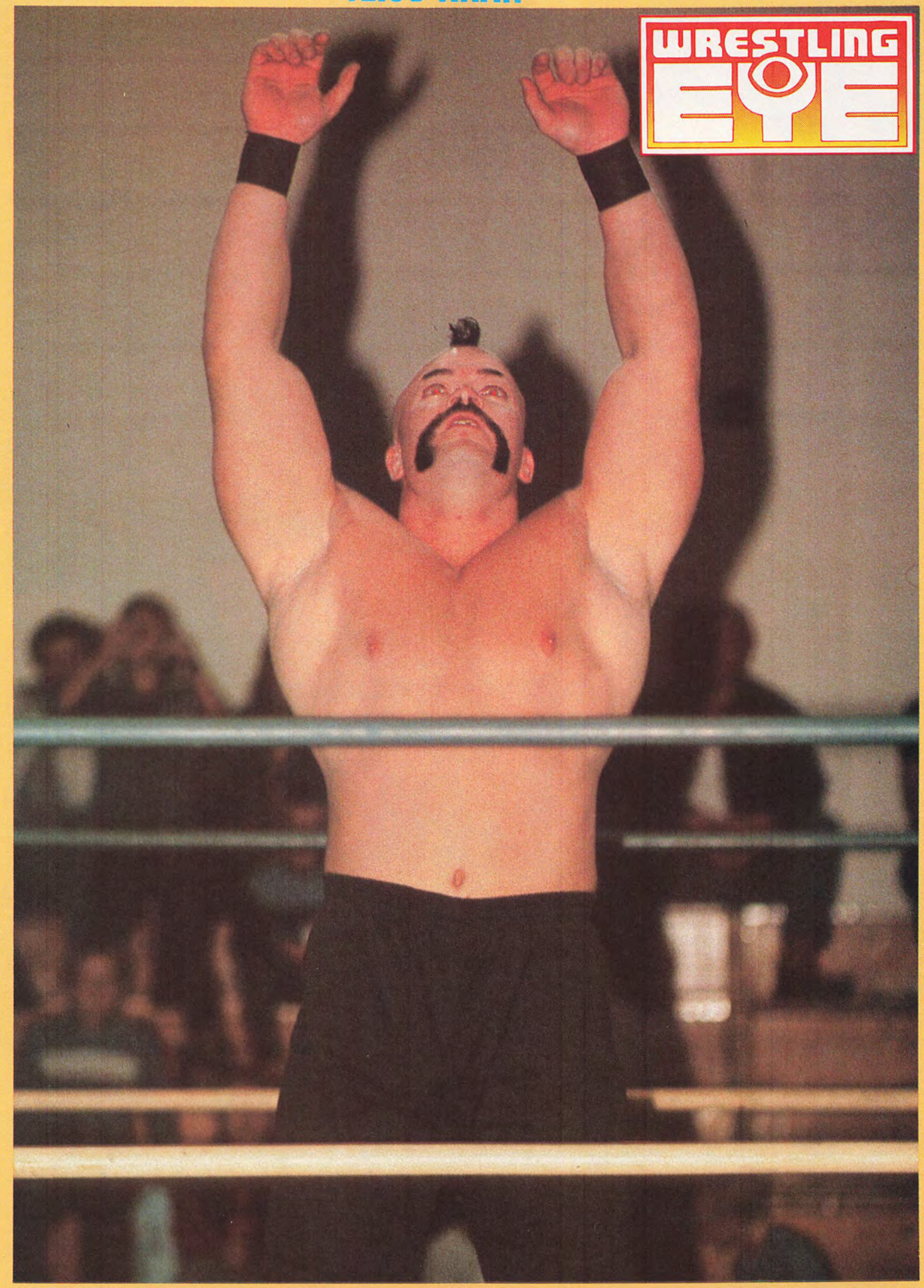
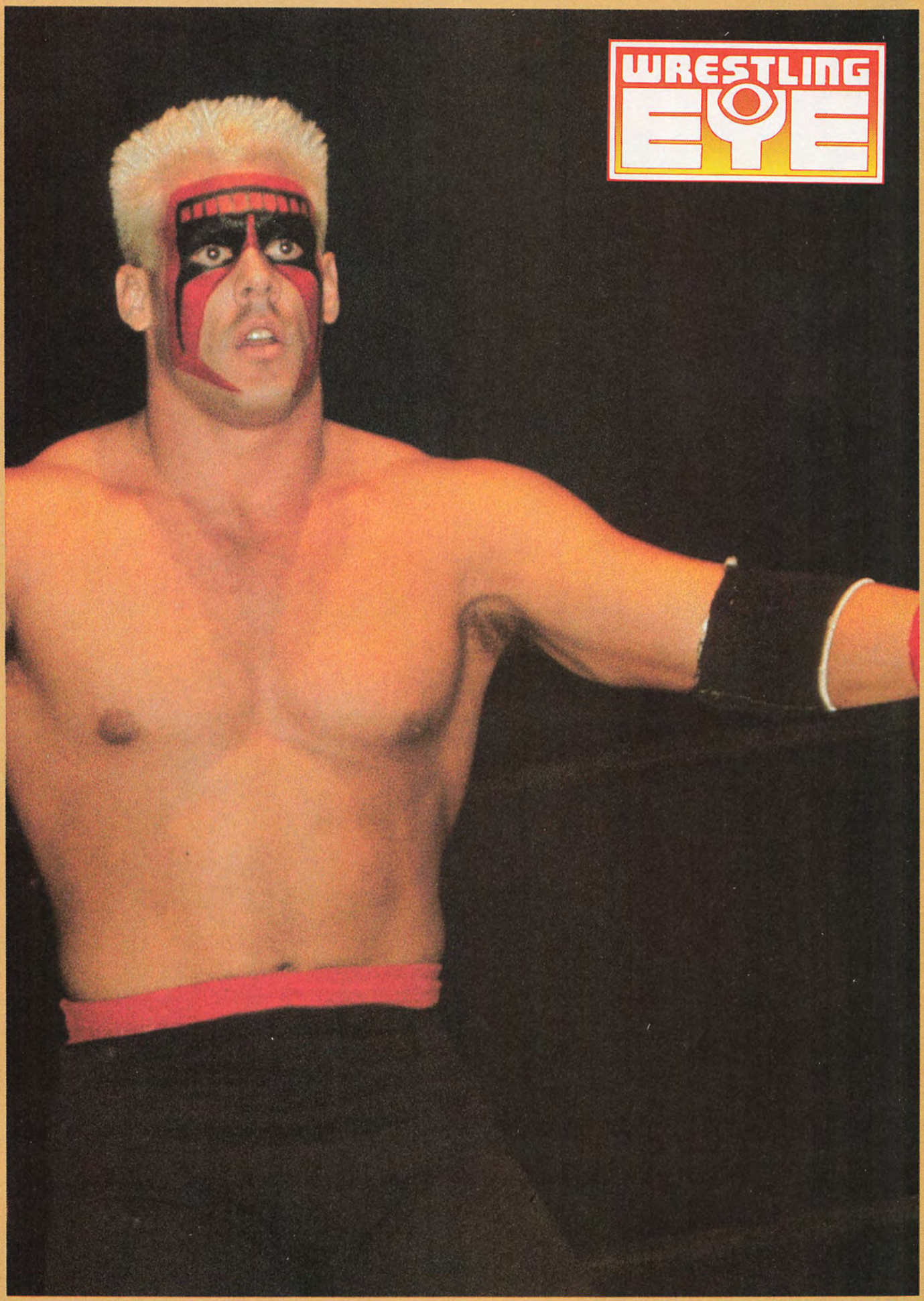


PHOTO BY BRODERICK SHEPERD

STING



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HULK HOGAN VS ONE MAN GANG

PHOTO BY LINDA MOORE

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